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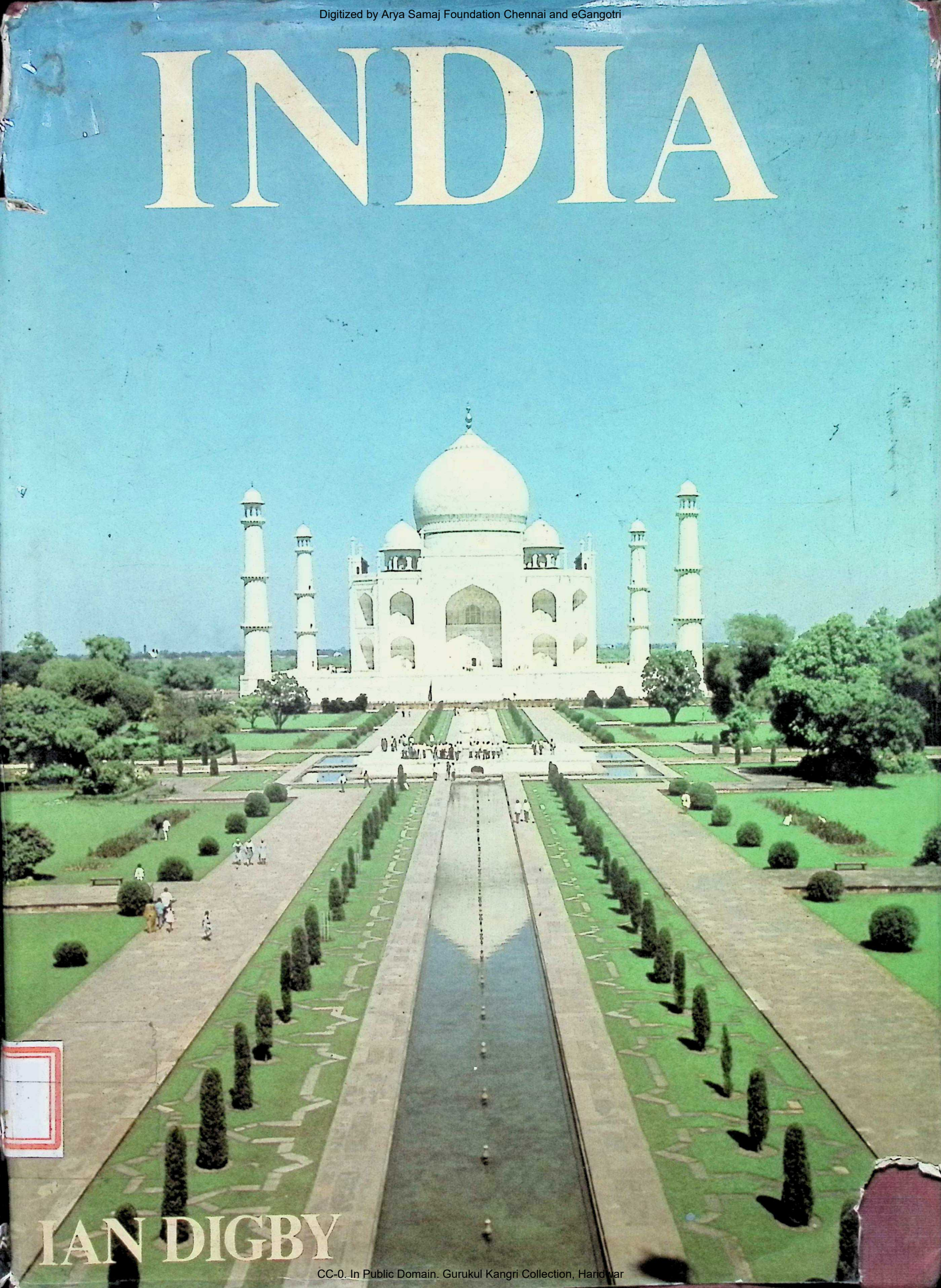

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India – the teeming subcontinent, with a population exceeding 500,000,000, making it the second most populous country in the world, and a geography that provides an incredible variety of landscape – has long exerted a fascination; a magnetism attracting a wide range of travellers – tourists, explorers, scientists and artists.

Most people in thinking of India will have their own ideas of what they might expect of this remarkable land, and such is its size and the diversity of its people, language, cultures and customs that they will find all they expected and more.

The capital of India, New Delhi, is on the bank of the Jumna River, about three miles from Old Delhi, sometimes called Shahjahanabad after the Mogul Emperor who ordered its reconstruction in the 17th century. Old Delhi contains some of India's most beautiful architecture but perhaps none is so renowned as the world-famous Taj Mahal, built at Agra between 1632–47 by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

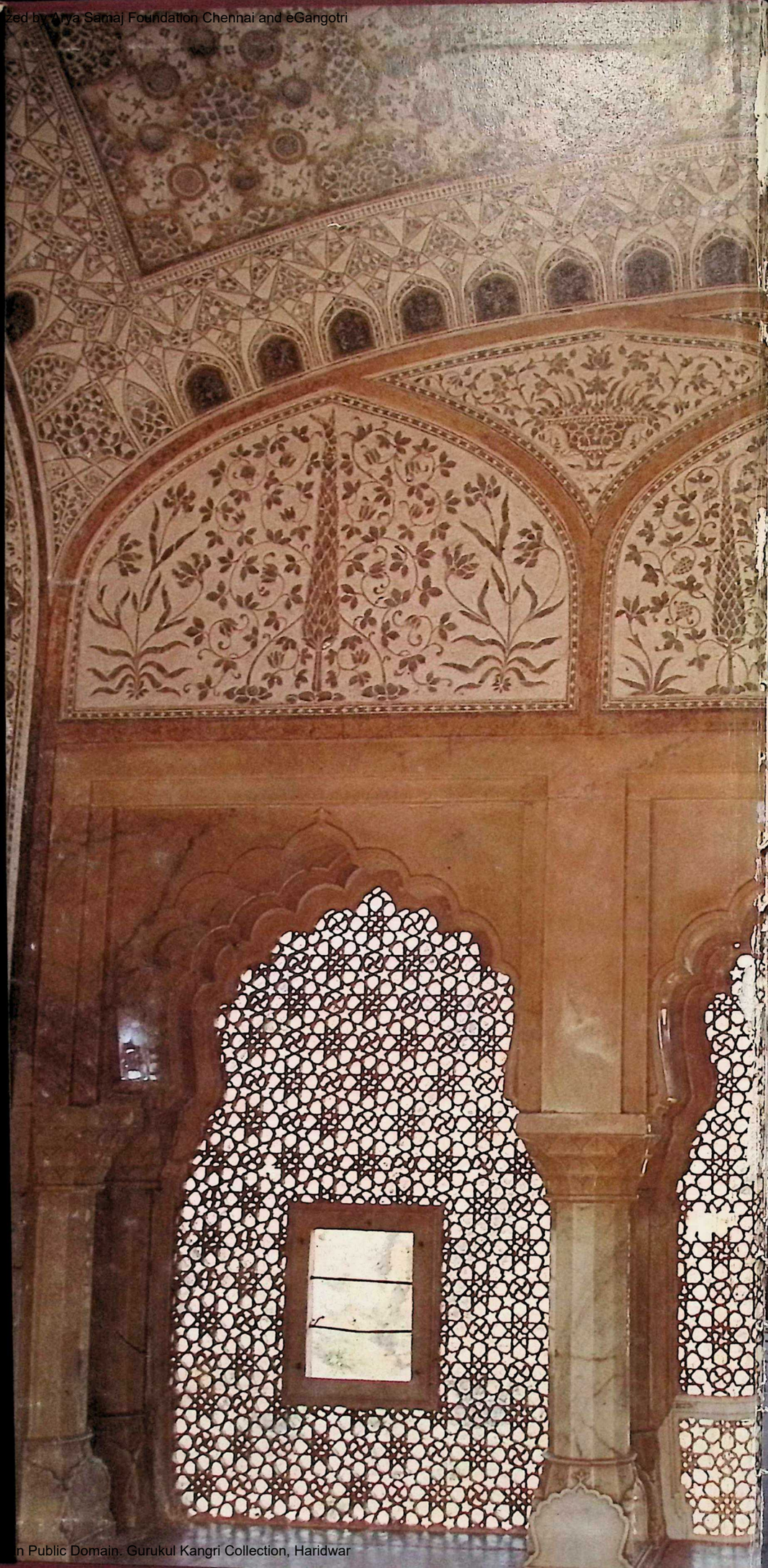
Bombay and Calcutta are probably the best-known of India's cities. Bombay, on the Arabian Sea, is the country's leading seaport and an important industrial and commercial centre, as is Calcutta, the largest city in India, with a population of well over 7,000,000.

India is a broad canvas on which are painted bold strokes of vivid colour balanced by warm and cool harmonies. Sometimes it is fascinating in the richness of its detail and sometimes breathtaking in the great expanses of its majestic landscape.

The colour photography in this book encapsulates the visual impact of the country; to serve as a permanent record of its magic.

Published by Colour Library International Ltd.,
80-82 Coombe Road, New Malden, Surrey, England
Telephone 01-942 7781

ISBN 0 906558 57 3



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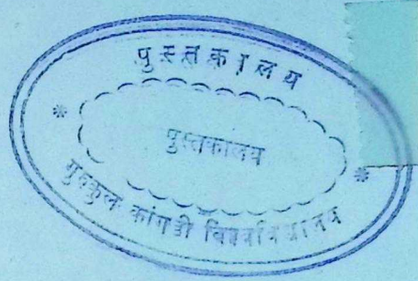

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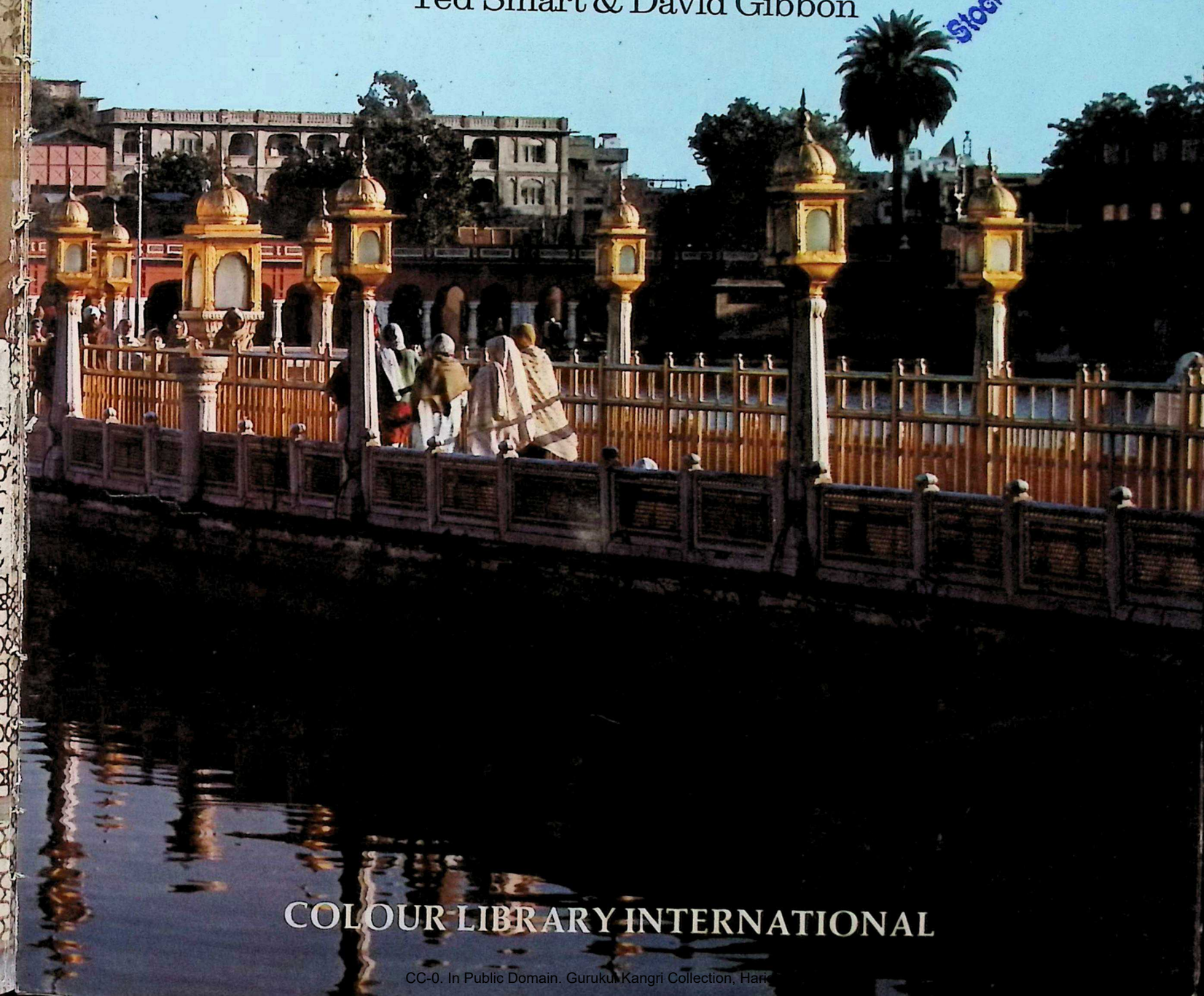

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Introduction

"Swagatam"–welcome–to India, a land whose variety and contrasts never fail to astonish the first-time visitor; a sub-continent snow-capped by the Himalayas and the chilly mountain borders of Nepal, Tibet and China to the north; lapped on either side by the warm waters of the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, and caressed by the tropical waves of the Indian Ocean to the south. One-third the size of Europe, its northern borders are on the same latitude as Sicily, its southern extremity parallel with equatorial Guinea in West Africa.

On this huge land mass is just about everything for the traveller: temples, architecture, carvings–a heritage of one of the world's oldest cultures–music festivals, religious ceremonies, the Carnivals of Goa, Lama dances in Ladakh, street markets, floating fruit vendors on the Lakes of Dal and Nagin, fire-eaters, snake charmers, the bustling crowds of Delhi and Calcutta; the legacies of the British Raj–Victorian houseboats on the Lakes of Kashmir and the legendary hill stations where British officers installed their wives away from the heat and clamour of the Delhi plain. All this and more awaits the traveller in India.

Apart from feasting his senses–dazzling colours like Diwali's thousand flickering lamps, the ever-present perfume of sandalwood, mangoes and jasmine, the magical sound of the flute marking the cow-dust hour, or the silvery tinkle of ladies anklets–the visitor can indulge himself in a wide range of activities. He can trek in the heady uplands, bird watch in placid lakes and rolling hills, seek tigers in the game reserves or just stretch out beneath the palms and casuarina trees on some of the longest and emptiest beaches in the world. And at the end of the day, he can slip into a cool bed in a former Maharajah's Palace, on a houseboat, in an old imperial hunting lodge, in a beach village or even a tented camp–these are just some of the possibilities available to those journeying in India today.

India's recorded history begins with Alexander the Great's expedition in 326 BC, and continues with a succession of dynasties or empires that laid the foundation stones of the India of today. The first of these was the Mauryan Empire under King Asoka (273-232 BC) but it was not until the era of the Guptas in the fourth century AD that Indian culture began to flourish. Schools and universities were established under the Guptas, the sciences of philosophy and astronomy flourished, and Buddhism became established as the State religion. This was the Golden Age of Indian culture. Some 500 years later came the Cholas dynasty, whose architecture and buildings–many of which still stand today–dotted the Indian landscape as far as Ceylon and even Indonesia. At the end of the Cholas dynasty, around the thirteenth century, the Muslim influence of Iran and Afghanistan began to be felt in India and when the Portuguese colonists arrived in the sixteenth century and backed the Hindus against the Muslims the rivalry between the two religions was at its peak, a rivalry that has spawned bloody conflict, has seen the partition of India, the creation of Pakistan and which, in more moderate form, still exists today.

Akbar (1556-1605) tried in vain to unite the faiths; Jahangir and Shah Jahan kept the peace by subjugating the Muslim Princes, but Islam was not to be denied and some of the finest shrines in the country–including the Taj Mahal–were built for the glory of Islam.

In the eighteenth century it was the turn of the British to colonise India and they did so, in the words of one authority, in "one of the largest colonial structures in the history of the world". It lasted well over a hundred years, survived the brutal Indian Mutiny of 1857/8 when the British reprisals were even more savage than the "crimes" they were intended to punish, and was only brought down by the civil disobedience campaign of the legendary Gandhi immediately after the Second World War.

It is a dramatic and colourful history, every page of which is etched in one way or another on the dramatic and colourful Indian landscape and way of life.

Meet the Indians

Like the land they inhabit, the people of India are rich in contrast. There are nearly 600 million split between twenty or more religions; thousands of castes, speaking more than 1,600 different languages or dialects. Punjabis and Kashmiris in the north are regularly over six feet tall and are elegant and statuesque; in the south where skins are much darker, pygmies can be found.

The extremes of wealth and poverty are also obvious, from the opulence of some princes, industrialists and commercial entrepreneurs to the poverty in which more than half the population still lives; from the comfortable houses of astronomers and engineers to the depressing huts of some half a million villages throughout the country that are still without electricity; there are ivory workers, goldsmiths, gemcutters, musicians and dancers, academics who can speak seven or eight languages; there are Nobel prizewinners, and there is the 60 per cent of the population which is illiterate.

Within this diversity, the caste system still operates. According to one authority this system is "a belief in the impurity of social relationships or contacts with members of other castes deeply rooted in those owing allegiance to Hinduism" (who now comprise some 80 per cent of Indians). There are four castes: the highest is the Brahmans, of whom there are some three million, mainly employed in the service of temples, but also very active in social and

Of white and grey-veined marble, the Moti Masjid, or 'Pearl Mosque' left stands within the Red Fort at Delhi.

Overleaf: *a view of the River Jumna and Taj Mahal seen from one of the Golden Pavilions in the Red Fort at Agra.*

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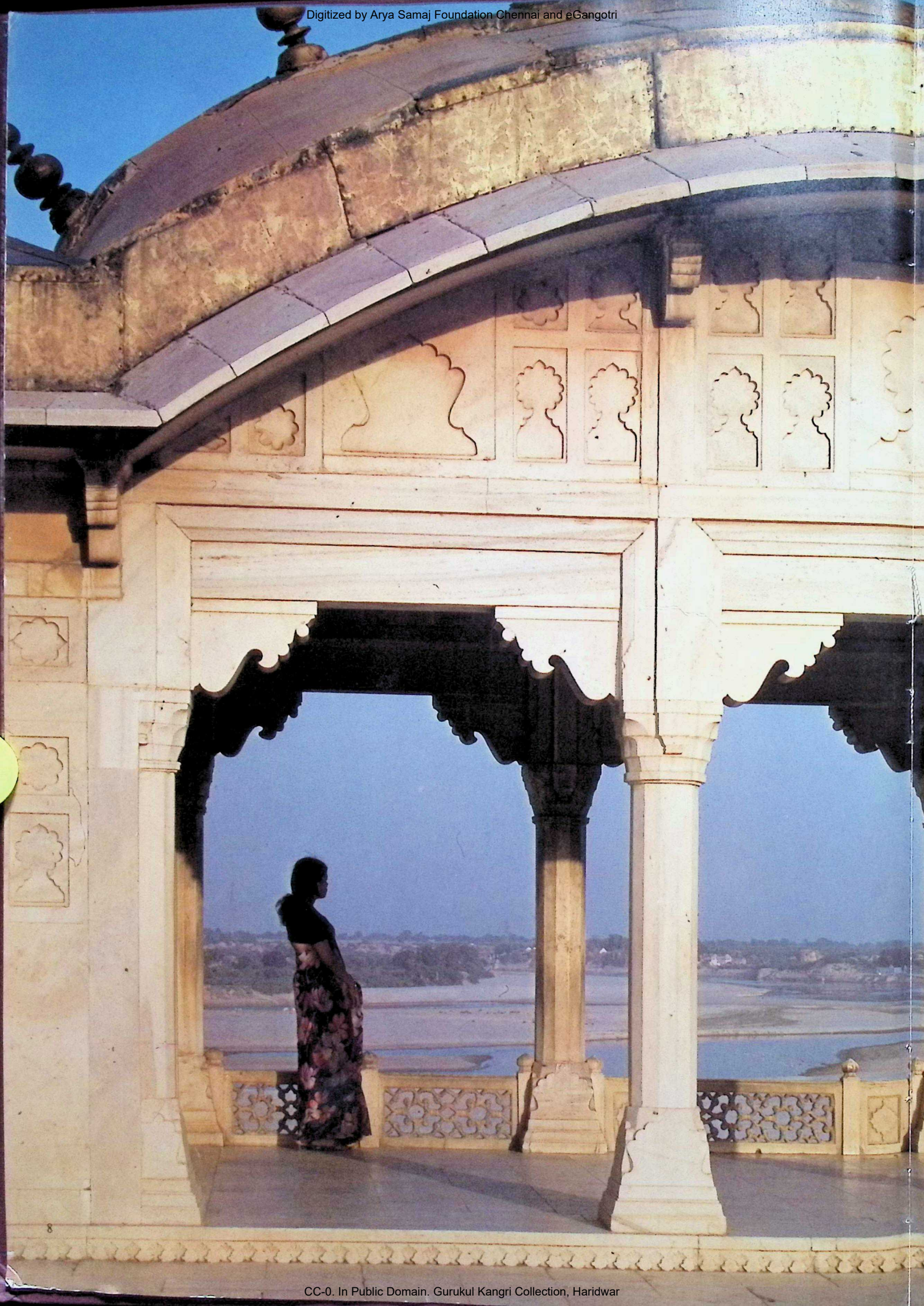

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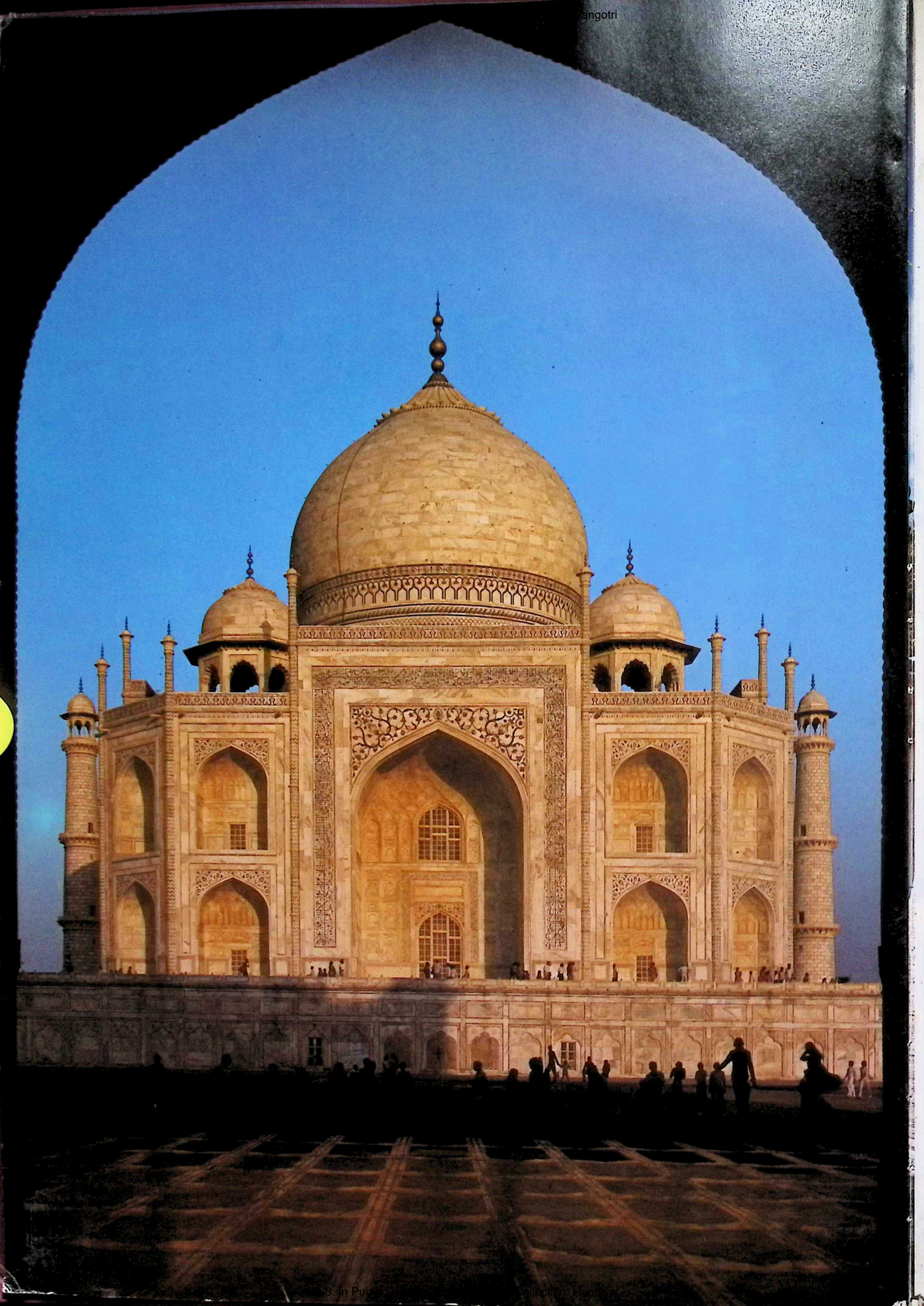

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political life. Next are the Kshatriyas, the second or military caste among the Brahmanic Hindus; then the Vaisyas, a fast-growing middle class element in Indian society, composed of tradesmen and property owners; and lastly the Sudras, the fourth and largest caste, who are the bulk of the Indian people, and mainly dark-skinned farmers. Outside this system, are the Harijans, numbering nearly 100 million, once called "untouchables," whose trades in the eyes of Indian society render them "untouchable" and who work as scavengers, street-sweepers, gravediggers, barbers, cobblers, tanners, furriers etc.

In basic terms this system means, for instance, that no man can receive food that is "pure" unless it comes from one of a superior caste; that he can only marry one of his own caste. Its ramifications affect the visitor, too. He is advised "never to shake hands with a casual Indian acquaintance who might regard the act as a defilement requiring rites of purification. Better to confine yourself to the graceful Indian greeting, the *namaste,* bringing your hands together on your breast and accompanying this gesture with a smile and a slight bow."

Despite this social protocol, many visitors are welcomed into Indian homes and, indeed, Government of India Tourist Offices in the major cities keep lists of local citizens interested in meeting tourists.

There will be no shortage of hospitality on such a visit, although again the visitor must expect to observe certain formalities, such as removing shoes before entering a house. He or she may also be expected to sit on the floor and, if in a Muslim house, it's possible a hookah pipe may be passed round from guest to guest, although this is not often encountered these days.

Food is usually eaten with the fingers and a finger-bowl is provided at the end of the meal when, one is advised, it is best not to tarry too long, as this can be interpreted to mean that you would like some more to eat. When eating, use only the right hand and never offer anyone food from your plate – "regarded as either a gesture of extreme intimacy or an unpardonable insult."

Tipping is always a problem for the traveller. In India it is perhaps a little easier, given these guidelines: with rare exceptions, service is included in restaurant and hotel bills; airline staff are not allowed to accept tips and, strangely, taxi drivers do not expect one. Generally a tip of one rupee is considered reasonable; not much perhaps in European terms but when one considers it may amount to fifteen or twenty per cent of a porter's daily wage, it is adequate.

Around Bombay

In its heyday as the main port of entry for the many ocean liners, before air travel took over, Bombay was known as the Gateway of India. Today it is India's financial and commercial centre, has one of the world's largest textile industries and is a leading producer of motion pictures, petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals. Two-thousand-year-old temples kneel between skyscrapers and new highways where ox-carts jostle with modern saloon cars.

Among the sights not to be missed are the Gateway of India itself, a pavilion built to receive Britain's King George V and Queen Mary on their visit in 1911. The mounted rider with the drawn sword is Shivaji, the warrior king of the Marathas. This is by the harbour waterfront, close to the point where boats leave for the amazing caves of Elephanta – another must on any visitor's itinerary. Situated five miles from the harbour, Elephanta is a small island in which four caves have been beautifully sculpted, it is believed, by craftsmen in the sixth century when the Gupta Golden Age was at its height. The whole is a Temple to Siva, and famous for the massive sculpture of Trimurti, the Hindu Trinity of the Creator, the Preserver and the Destroyer. Boats leave the Gateway daily except during the monsoon season, May to September.

One of the best vantage points in Bombay is the beautifully maintained public Hanging Gardens atop Malabar Hill with a delightful children's garden and spectacular views over the bay. *Raj Bhanan,* the official residence of the State Governor, is also on Malabar from which Marine Drive (Netaji Subash Road) with its string of road lights, earning it the nickname of the "Queen's Necklace", can also be seen. Not far from Malabar are the ominously named Towers of Silence on which the Parsees leave their dead, as part of the funeral ritual, to be devoured by vultures. Mercifully, perhaps, non-Parsees are not allowed near them. At the north end of Marine Drive is the exotic Chowpatty Beach where, on sultry evenings, brightly-lit stalls offer tasty, savoury snacks, and where in September–October, during the Festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, hundreds of painted effigies of Ganesh are plunged into the sea in a colourful and dramatic ceremony.

North towards Ahmedabad, are the Kanheri Caves, numbering a hundred or so, chipped out by religious men somewhere between 200 and 500 AD. The upper ones are now used as monks' cells for the nearby Buddhist community, but in the lower ones Buddha carvings remind the visitor of those at Elephanta. The Caves are part of a lush, tropical National Park containing villages in jungle clearings where naked children play amongst the cows ambling along the mud roads.

Bassein Fort, the ruins of a sixteenth-century Portuguese stronghold, is worth a visit, particularly during the monsoons, when the ruins of churches, and a trading station amid banyan trees, take on a particularly evocative character.

Goa is for the beach lovers. Its silver sands are said to be among the most beautiful in the world and the whole place has an almost Caribbean feel about it – with its mangoes, pineapples, coconuts and easy-going, music-loving people.

Mahabaleshwar, one of Poona's hill resorts, occupies a beautiful site on a 4,000 ft plateau. Its attractions include walks through lovely gardens and meadows, fishing and boating on the lake and big game hunting, (largely for

An exquisite monument to Arjumand Banu, the favourite queen of the Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is seen left *from the West Mosque.*
Overleaf: *the splendid colonnades of the Diwan-i-Am, or Hall of Public Audience, in Agra's Red Fort.*

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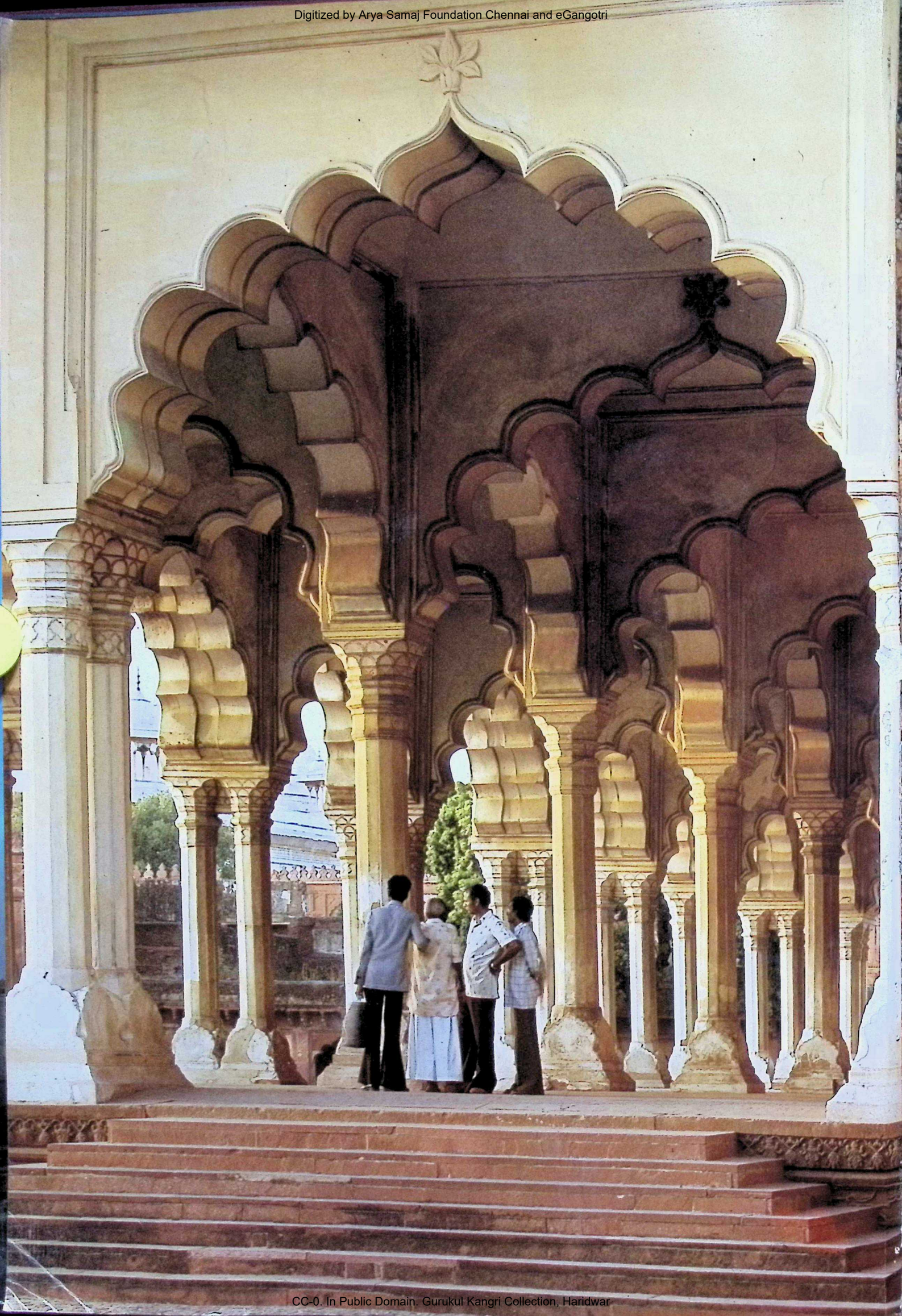

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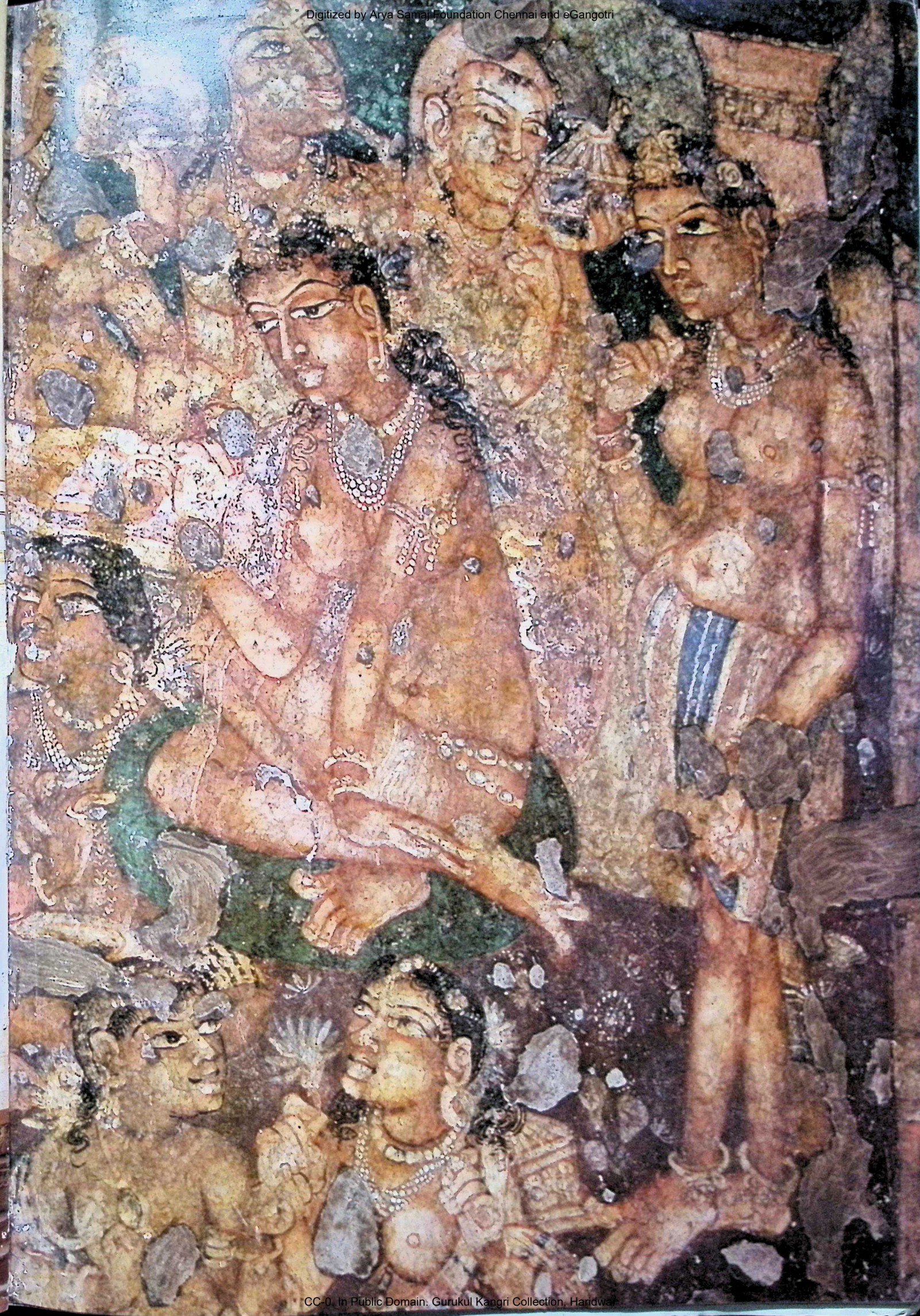

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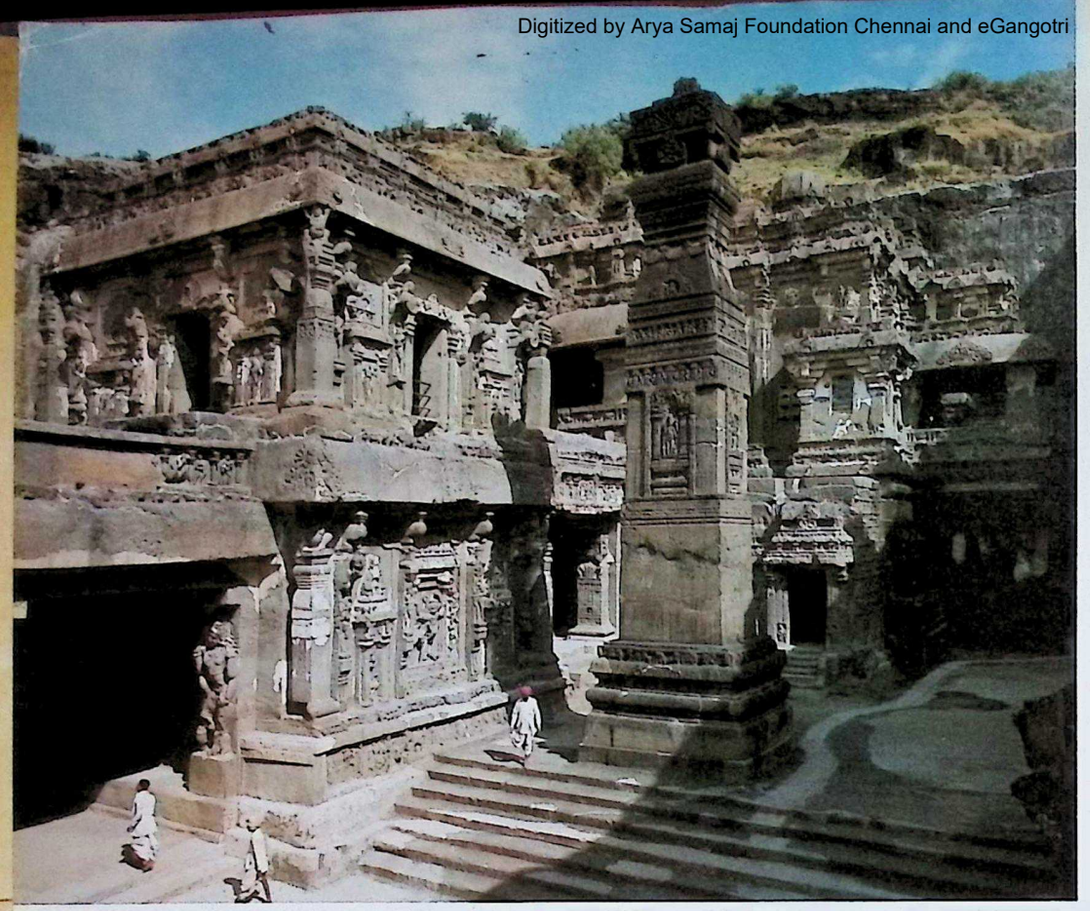

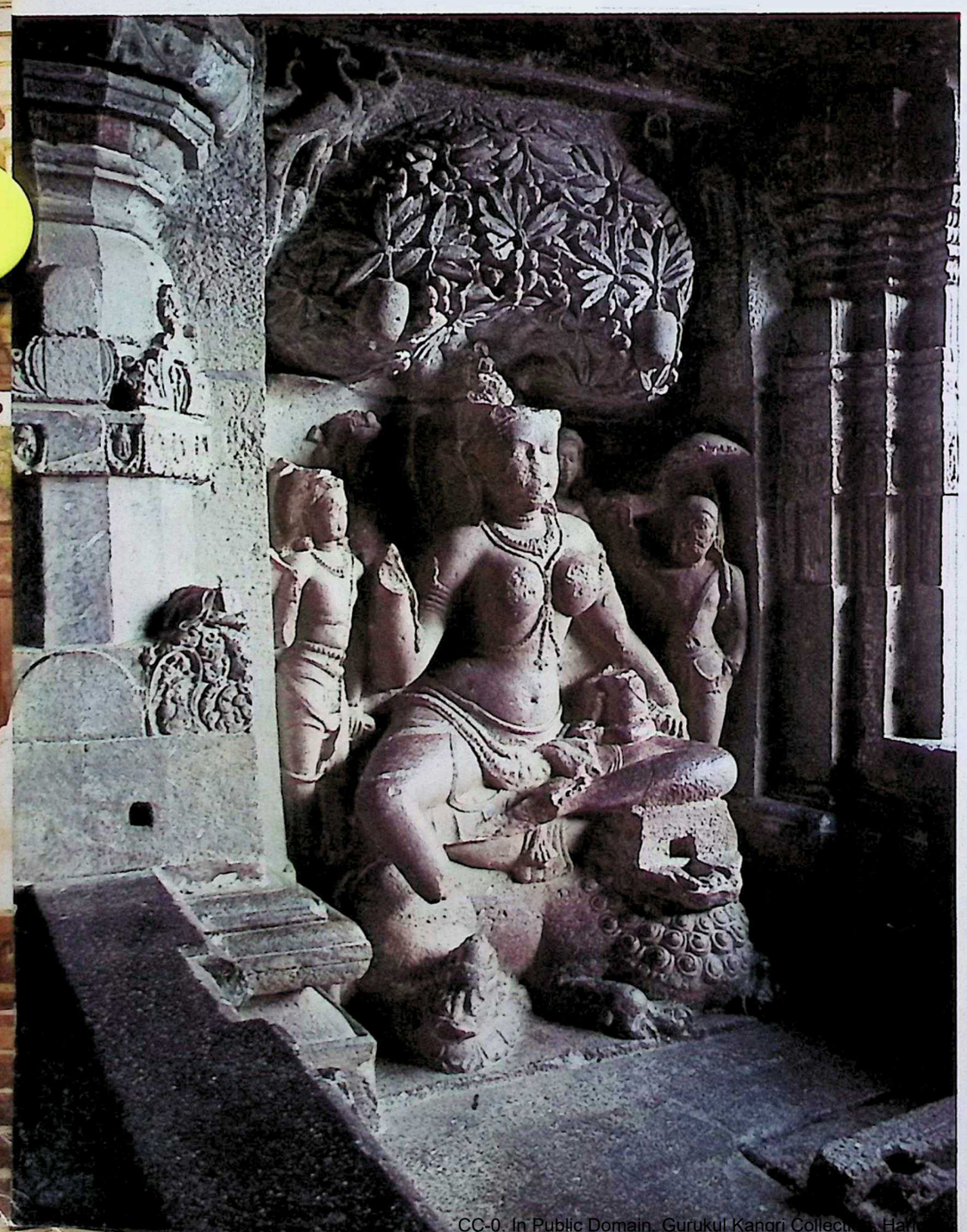

The caves of Ellora, 19 miles from Aurangabad, consist of twelve Mahayana Buddhist, seventeen Brahman and five Jain examples. Dedicated to Siva, the Kailasa Temple is shown above and above left; left *the interior of the Jain Cave No 3* below *the Viswakarma—or Carpenter's Cave, and* right *the Lingam Shrine in the Sita-Ki-Nahâni, or Bath Cave.*

Overleaf: *the Mausoleum of Rabi'a Daurani at Aurangabad.*

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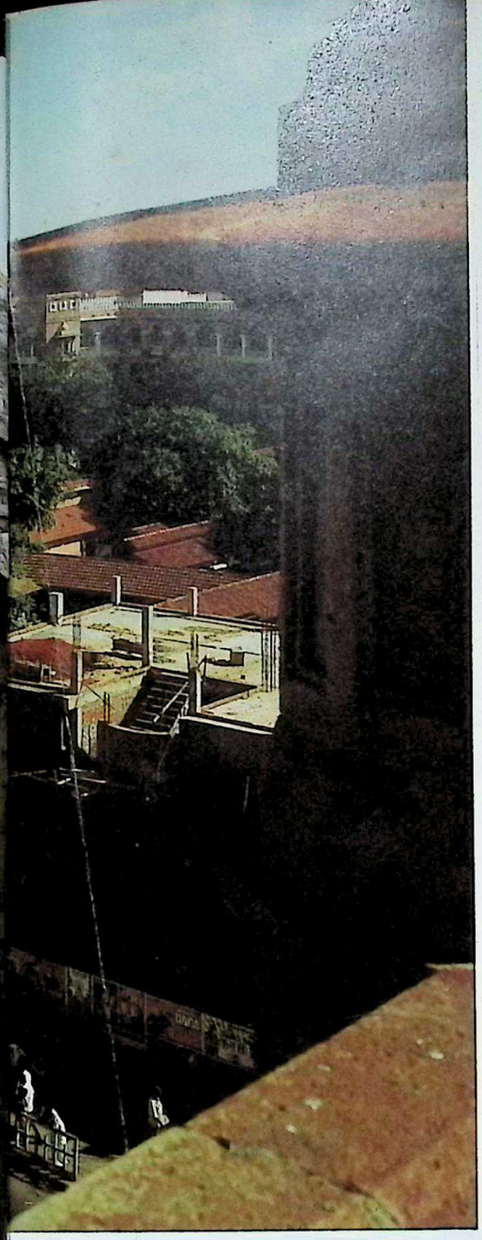

The most important of the group of Pallava structures at Kanchipuram, the 'Golden City', is the 1,000-year-old Kailasanath Temple. Its pyramidal tower is seen from the east wall below, *and* right *are two of the north raths.*

Designed in Hindu-Saracenic style is the High Court above; above right *the Parthasarathi Temple, and* left *the Senate House of the University in Madras, capital of the State of Tamil Nadu.*

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Some notable examples of figure sculpture from the Thanjavur District may be found in the Madras Museum which is sited in the Egmore quarter of the city, and include: above far left *13th-century AD Goddess;* above *12th-century AD Uma;* left *12th-century AD seated Siva;* below *13th-century AD Vinadhara Dakshinamurti, and* right *11th-century AD Ardhanariswara– (a composite male-female figure of Siva and consort Parvati).*

From the Rock at Tiruchirapalli Fort spreads one of the finest panoramic vistas to be seen in the plains of India overleaf.

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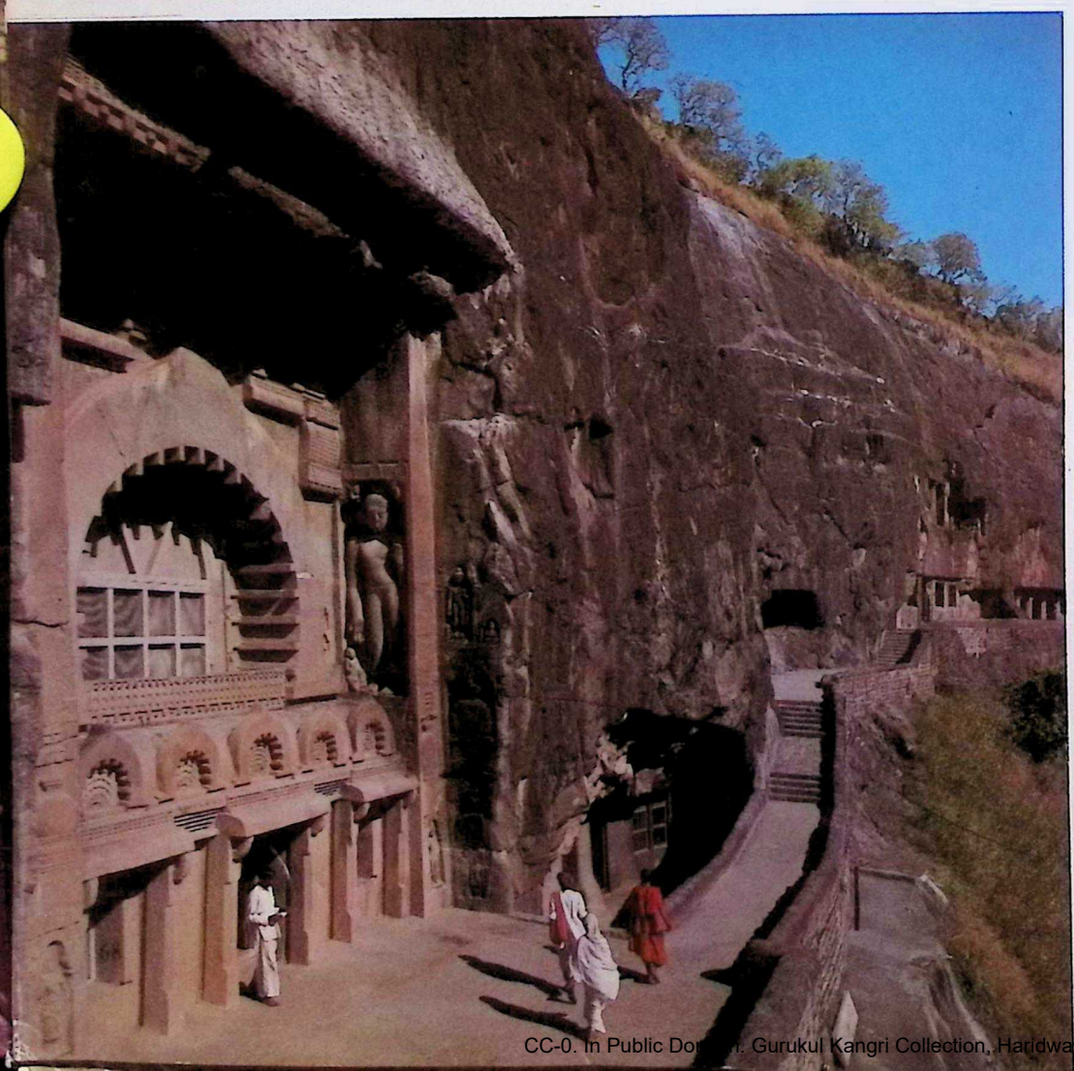
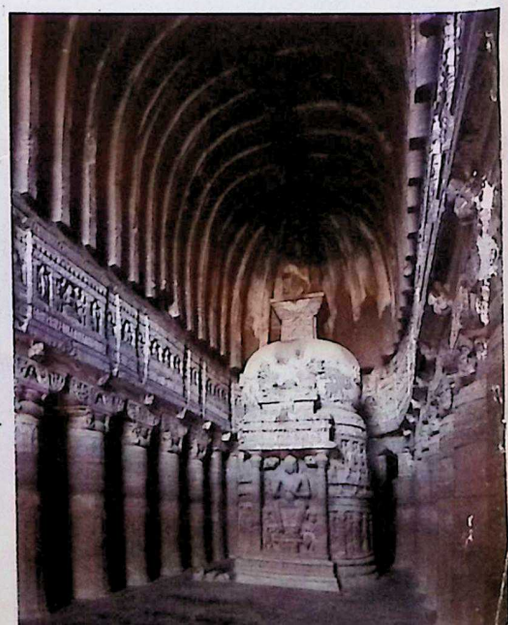


A noted example of Orissan-style architecture, the Jagganath Temple above *stands on the 'Blue Hill' at Puri.*

The caves of Ajanta, carved from the rock in the scarped side of a deep ravine in the Indhyari hills, are one of the most remarkable sights in India. Left *is shown the entrance to Cave 9 (Chaitya Cave);* below *a seated Buddha under a pavilion in Cave 26, and* right *a detail from one of the celebrated frescoes in Cave 1.*



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panthers–the few tigers are protected).

Bombay itself is a shopper's paradise with visits particularly recommended to Chor Bazaar – "the thieves market," and to the street arcades around Flora Fountain. For sports enthusiasts there is cricket, golf, fishing, and horse racing, and a wide variety of restaurants, clubs, and museums, as well as a planetarium.

Around Delhi

The site of Delhi commands the Ganges Plain and with it the entry to India for all invading armies – the Afghans, the Persians, the Mughals and the British. Originally seven cities, it now comprises two – Old Delhi which reached its zenith under the Mughals, and New Delhi, built by the British in beige and red sandstone fringing broad tree-lined avenues, on the hill of Raisina in the early years of the present century. Delhi possesses an embarassment of treasures for the tourist. Here are just some of them:

On the south side of Delhi is the Qutb Minar, a fluted, red sandstone tower over 200 ft high that has survived the elements, including earthquake, for eight centuries. It commemorates one of the famous Muslim victories over non-believers in 1192.

In the centre of the great courtyard of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque stands another tower, the Iron Pillar which has defied scientific explanation for centuries. It was built in the fifth century of pure iron and since that time has remained totally rust-free. Nobody knows how. Legend has it that any person who can stand with his back to it and link his hands around it can have whatever he desires.

One of the sights of night-time Delhi is the Purana Qila, a fortified castle which was built by Sher Shah with additions by Humayun, unusually combining Hindu and Muslim architecture. Floodlit, it is most impressive.

Humayun reigned from 1530–1556 and his tomb, erected by his widow, is the first and finest Mughal monument. Other adjacent but lesser tombs include those of his widow and of many Indian princes – victims of violent death.

The Red Fort, so-called because of its rose-red sandstone, was completed in 1648 by Shah Jahan when he moved India's capital back from Agra to Delhi. Here stood the famous Peacock Throne, until it was later carried off to Persia by Nadir Shah. Much of the architecture dating from Jahan's time is in need of renovation, but the Red Fort plays a major role in India's past and should not be missed. Most evenings, at the Fort, a sumptuous *son et lumière* brings that past alive, with trumpeting elephants, horses, guns and jingling ankle bells.

A more recent monument to India's past is the Gandhi Memorial in the south west of the city near the banks of the Yamuna. It marks the spot where Ghandi was cremated in January 1948 after his assassination. The cremation on a pyre of sandalwood was attended by a crowd estimated at one million people.

Other Delhi highlights include the charming seventeenth-century Jami Masjid; the white and grey-veined marble Moti Masjid or "Pearl Mosque"; the India Gate Memorial to India's First World War dead; and Rashtrapati Bhawan, the official residence of the Indian President; whilst on Republic Day, 26 January, a colourful parade moves elegantly through Vijay Chowk.

Just less than 125 miles from Delhi lies India's most famous landmark – the Taj Mahal at Agra, mounment of a great king's grief for his dead wife. Shah Jahan had it built as a mausoleum for his wife Mumtaz Mahal on her death in 1629 during childbirth. *Mahal* means woman's palace or harem, and *Taj* was a corruption and abbreviation of Mumtaz. It is a monument of outstanding beauty and, as one early visitor remarked, should really be called the eighth wonder of the world.

Under 14 miles from Agra lies the deserted city of Fatehpur-Sikri, built high on a rocky crag by the Emperor Akbar, but deserted fourteen years later because the city had no natural water supply. A city where its emperor wandered the streets at night in disguise, and where chess was played with live, ornately costumed dancers, it is beautifully preserved and seen at its best by moonlight.

Khajuraho, with its temples and erotic sculptures, in Madhya Pradesh, is worth a visit, as is Jaipur, where an elephant ride up a rocky hillside to the Amber Fort is an unforgettable experience; and see the beautiful marble palace at Udaipur in its fairytale setting on an island lake. Animal watchers should try the famed Corbett National Park and, if the itinerary permits, fit in a visit to Kashmir with its snowcapped peaks, crisp meadows, foaming rivers, temple bells and profusion of wild flowers and fruit.

And back in Delhi, before you leave, call in on the arcades and bazaars of Chandni Chowk and the fragrant jewel and perfume market of Dariba Kalan.

Around Calcutta

Capital of India under the British until New Delhi was built, Calcutta with its eight million Bengalis is the nation's largest city and the centre of the world's jute industry. The Bengalis are passionate by nature and produce more painters, poets, actors and musicians than any other region of India. Calcutta itself is the gateway to Assam, Bihar, Orissa and the highest peaks of the Himalayas.

The city possesses an attractive park, the Maidan, which was originally laid out by the British as an open space to allow a free field of fire for their guns; now it has trees, avenues and copious sports facilities. It is at the south end of the Maidan where the Victoria Memorial stands that, after work, many Calcuttans assemble for a drink in one of the open air cafés. On the west side of the park is the Shahid Minar, built in honour of a British victory in the Nepal War of 1814 and from which can be seen a fine view of the city. Calcutta's main shopping street, Chowringhi

Left: *Nataraja Kunniyur (Dancing Siva), Thanjavur District, c. 1,000 AD., Madras Museum.*

Overleaf: *dominating southern Calcutta is the superb Victoria Memorial, designed by Sir William Emerson.*

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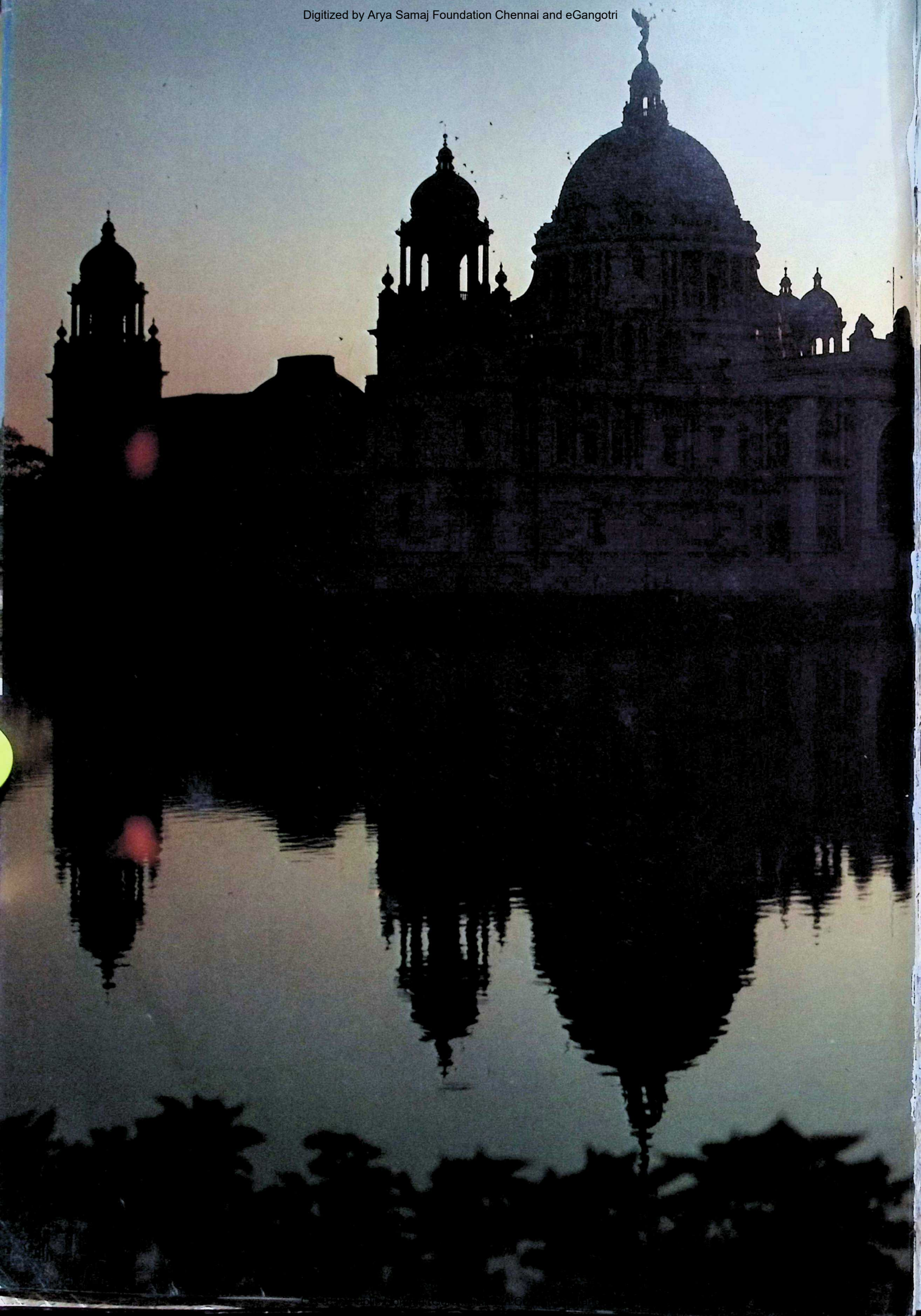

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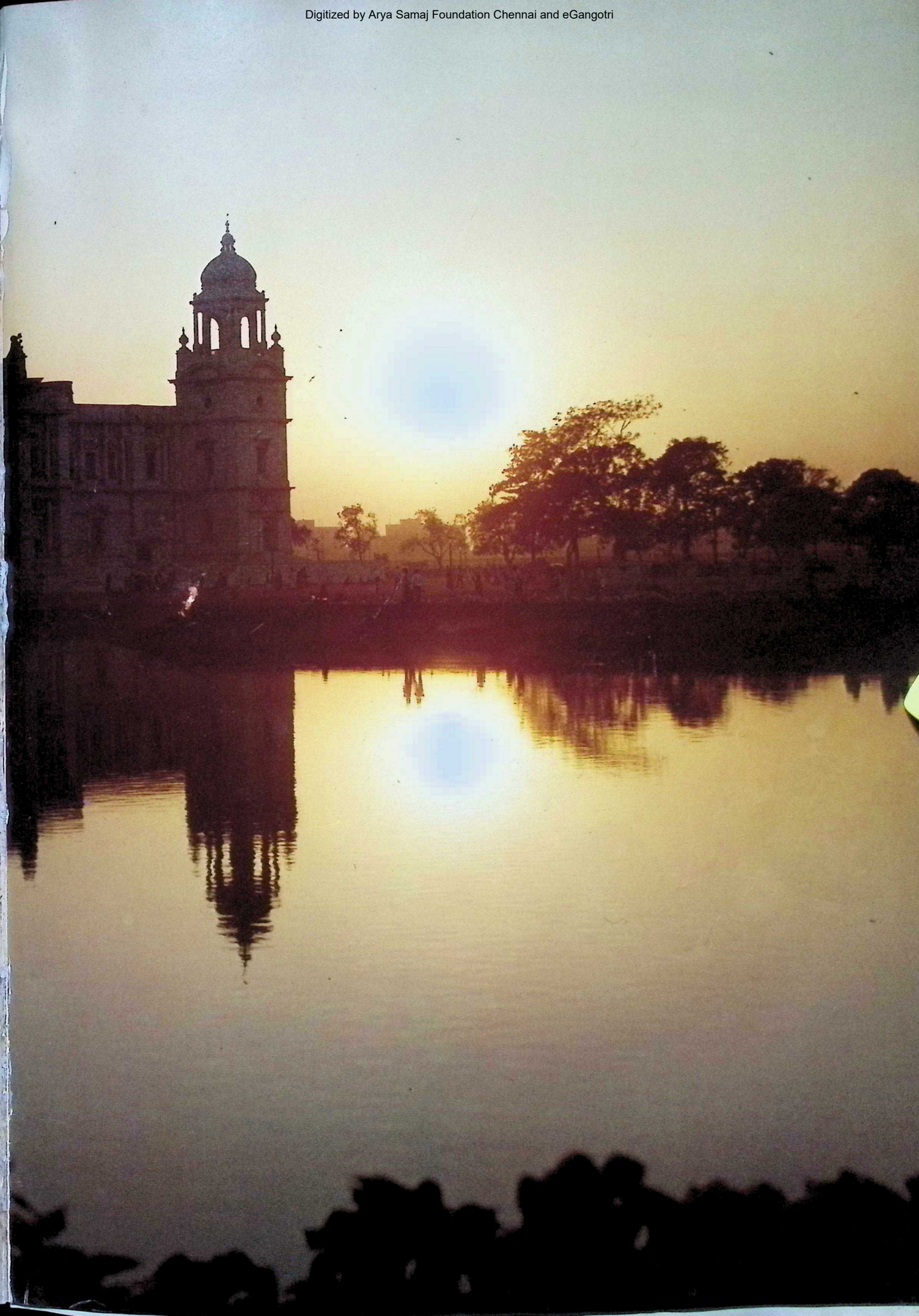

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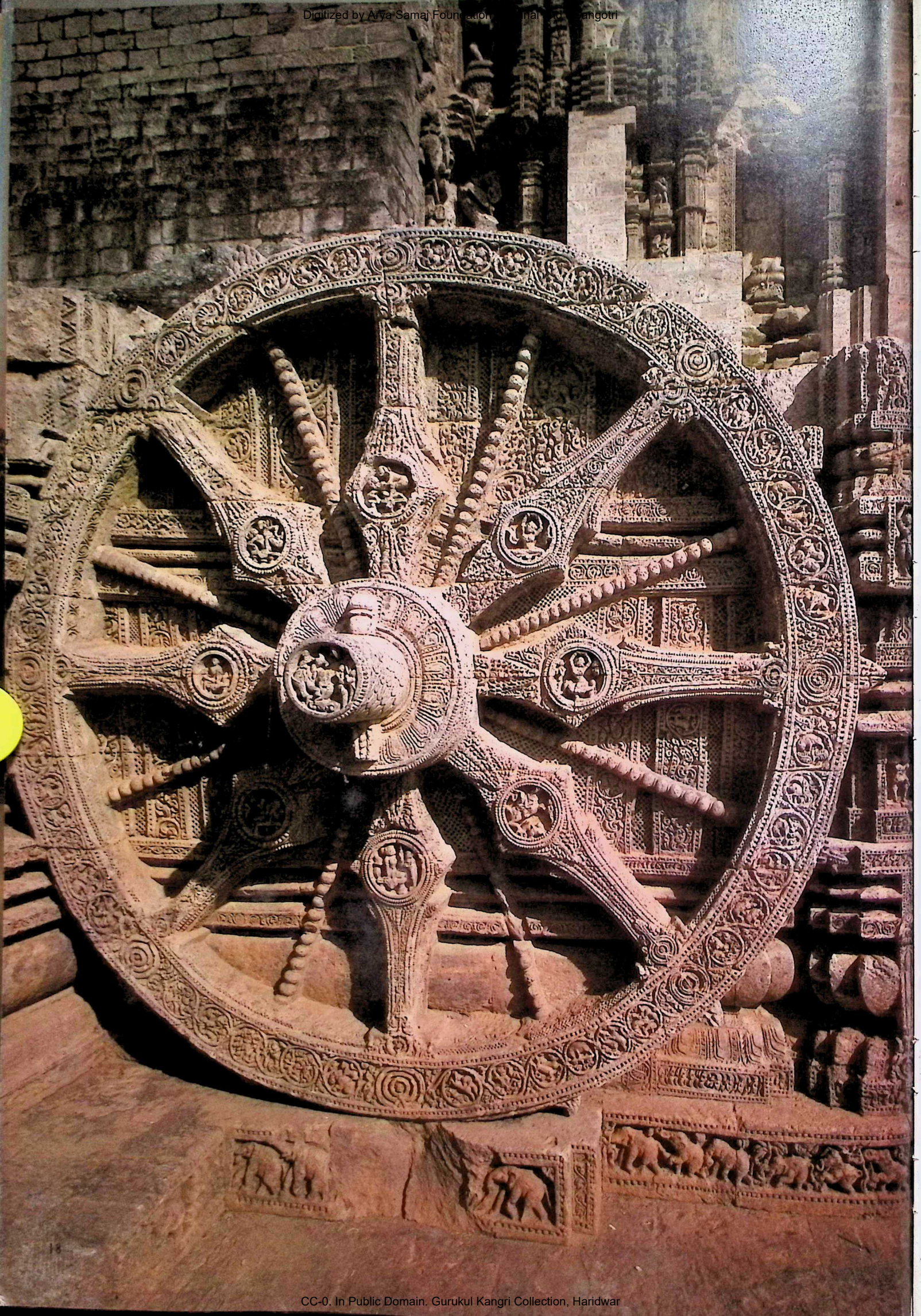

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Road, a riot of ox carts, rickshaws, sacred cows, stray dogs, pedestrians and the occasional marooned car, runs from here down to Hogg's Market, the largest covered market in India.

Not by any means a beauty spot, but an essential on any itinerary, is the incredible Howrah Bridge, a spiders web of steel girders spanning the River Hooghly. "Almost a city in itself," reports Nagel's Guide, "it swarms with pedestrians and its dense traffic is often brought to a standstill in a monster jam. Life goes on here with people selling wares, others sleeping, others begging."

125 miles from Calcutta is Murshidabad, the ancient capital of West Bengal, now the centre of the silk, ivory and brass industries; while Bishnupur is worth a visit for its exquisitely carved temples in red sandstone.

To see the Himalayas in all their glory, visit Darjeeling with Everest only 150 miles away and the Kinchinjanga peak clearly visible on good days. Sikkim is but a ropeway's walk away, and its capital, Gangtok, is within reach too, through orchid fields.

Assam is elephant and rhino country and a drive through the thousands of acres of tea plantations to Kaziranga's wild life sanctuary is highly recommended. You can explore the sanctuary on elephant back and see the one-horned Indian rhino, jungle cats, and buffaloes.

For Buddhists, Bodh-Gaya in Bihar has to be seen. It is the hallowed place of enlightenment of the Buddha, and pilgrims come from all over the world to visit the famous mediaeval temple near the pipal (or Bodhi) tree under which he meditated.

At Konarak, in Orissa, is the great temple – the Black Pagoda – of Surya, the sun god. It stands in lonely splendour on the dunes of the seashore, ruined now, but still an amazing spectacle. And if you are in the location of Puri in June, it's worth a visit for its Car Festival when the image of Lord Jagannath, on a gigantic wooden, carved chariot, is drawn through the streets to the rhythm of drums, cymbals and hymns.

Benares, also known as Varanasi, is the most sacred of the seven holy cities of India. It is the point where, according to legend, the Goddess of the Ganges, Ganga, descended to earth, and early each morning pilgrims throng the banks and descend from the ghats into the Ganges. On the ghats, of which there are 64, are temples and palaces but it is the Manikarnika Ghat which is the most sacred. It is the one used for sacrificial burning of the dead, a restrained and dignified ceremony in which the bodies are delivered to the ghat on a bamboo bier, which is dipped into the Ganges for purification. The shrouded bodies are then placed on a pyre and covered with wood. After the fire, the ashes are cast into the Ganges and the relatives then also purify themselves in the river.

Magnificent carvings, such as the wheel left *can be seen in the celebrated Sun Temple, believed to be of 9th century AD origin, at Konorak.*

Overleaf: *Man Mandir Ghat, one of the long line of bathing-ghats in Benares (Varanasi), one of the seven sacred cities of the Hindus.*

The pilgrim to Benares is required to visit the five most sacred ghats and to walk round Benares, a distance of some nine and half miles barefoot in six days.

Around Madras

Paddy fields, cardamom and pepper groves, magnolia, jasmine and vetiver – a patchwork of blue and green surrounds Madras, fourth largest of India's cities with a two-million population, and the railway as one of its major industries. It has come under Greek, Christian, Muslim, French, Portuguese and British influence but has somehow managed to retain a character of its own with a strong emphasis on dance, music, art and architecture.

Fort St George is where Madras began – a fortification built in 1644 by the British to protect a factory the East India Company had established there. It is now the seat of government for the State of Tamil Nadu, of which Madras is the capital, but it still houses the Military Museum which records in detail the uniforms, weapons, documents, coins, and portraits of figures relevant to the British conquest and administration of India.

Guindy, within the city limits, houses two places of interest – a game reserve and deer sanctuary, and the Madras Snake Park where visitors can see – at a safe distance – the rare king cobra.

The city's Marina Beach is claimed to be the second largest in the world but unfortunately swimming is dangerous because of sharks. Several pools cater for the active swimmer. However, within 60 miles of Madras there are many excellent beaches, among them Elliots and Ennore.

Kanchipuram, 50 miles south west of Madras, is one of the seven holy cities of ancient India, now famous for its temples dating from the eighth century and for its silk sari weaving. The Varadaraj Temple keeps a sacred elephant in its courtyard which, with its trunk will take a rupee from the visitor and bless him.

Some 22 miles from Kanchipuram is Tirukalikundram – the Hill of the Sacred Eagles. On top of a steep hill, a climb of 100 steps, is a small temple with a nearby mound. Every day between eleven and noon two sacred eagles arrive punctually to be fed by a Brahman. Legend has it that they are the spirits of two pilgrims who make a pilgrimage to Benares, passing the Hill at the same time every day.

Tirupathi, until recently closed to non-Hindus, is India's richest temple. Set amongst wooded hills, surrounded by waterfalls, pools, mango and sandalwood trees, it is encrusted in jewels. The visitor will probably come away with perfume; brass, horn, shell and flower souvenirs from the temple whose charitable trust runs schools, universities and hospitals.

Kerala is a narrow strip in the Indian south-west, the most beautiful and fertile of regions, a land of coconuts, lakes, canals, thatched and timbered houses and churches, set along the edge of virgin jungle and dotted with orchids, lagoons and backwaters. Cochin, with its cosmopolitan

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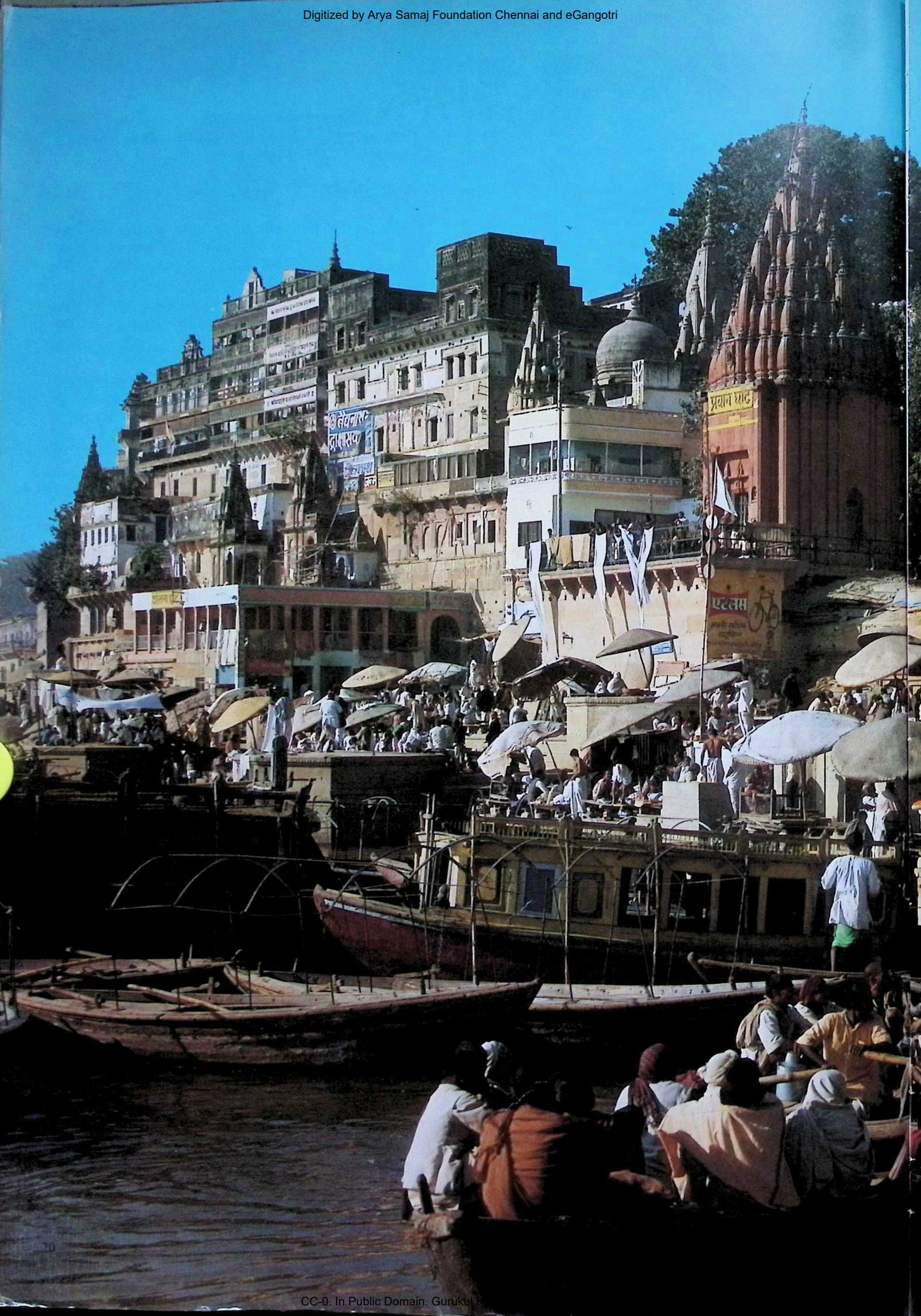

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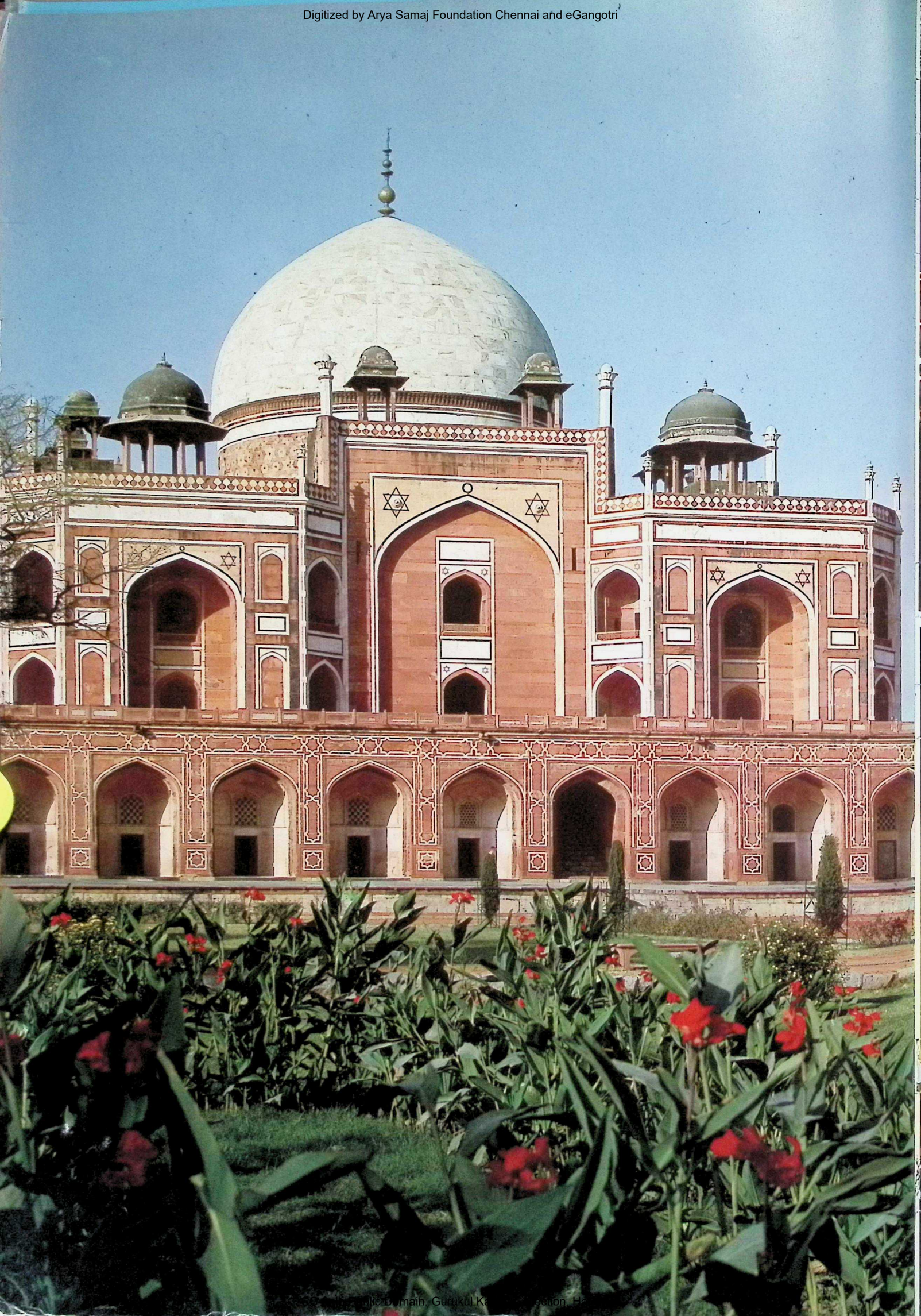

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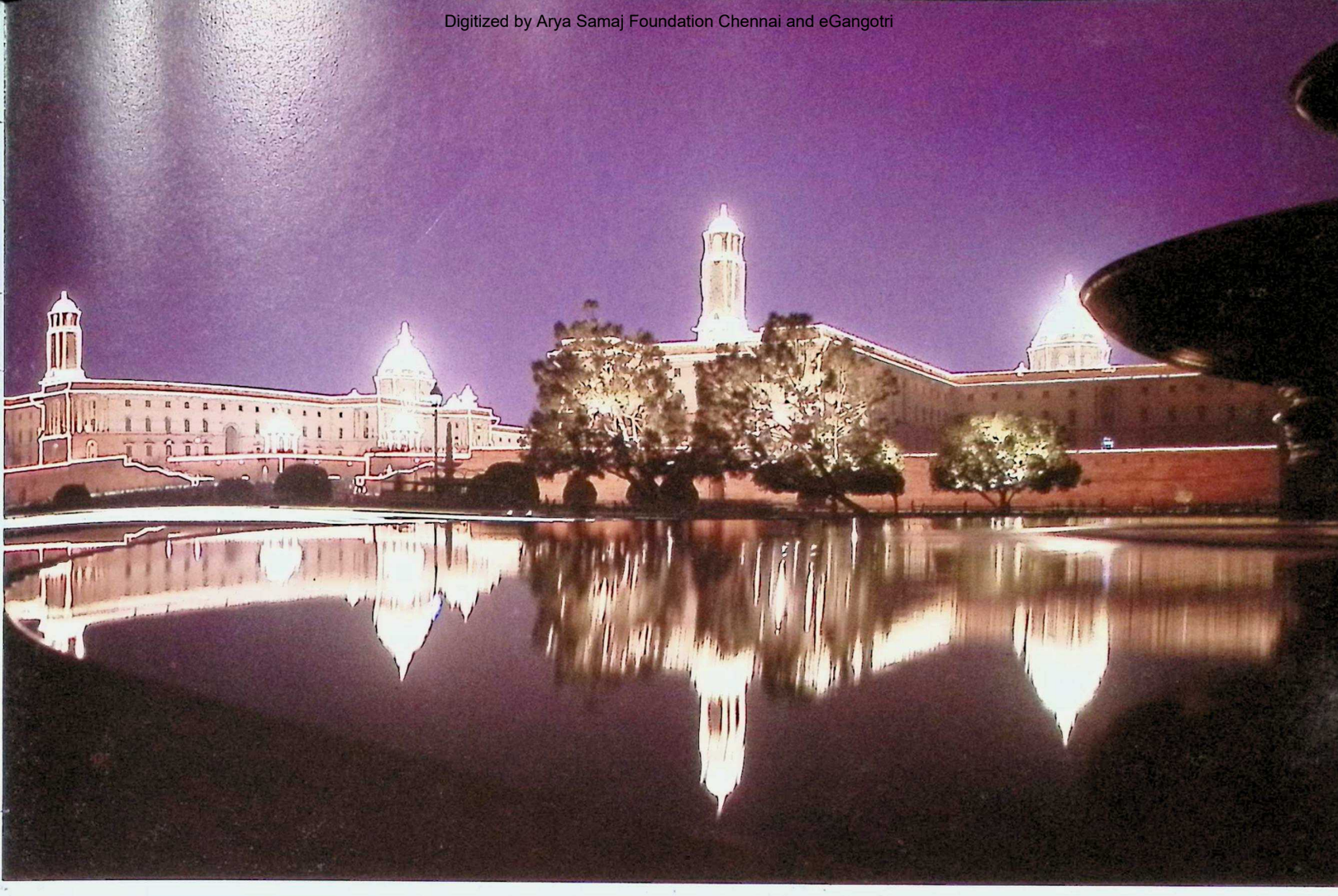

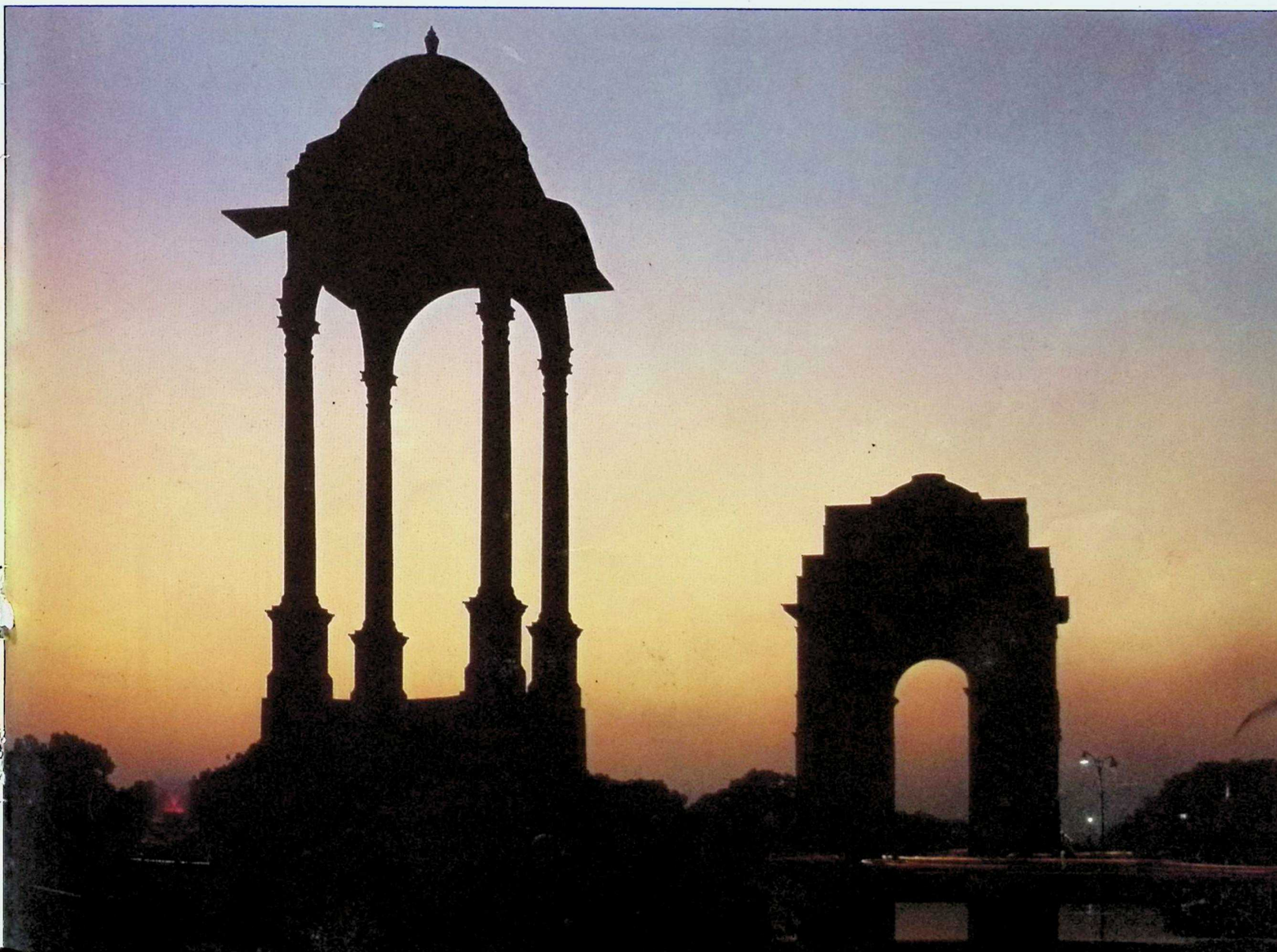

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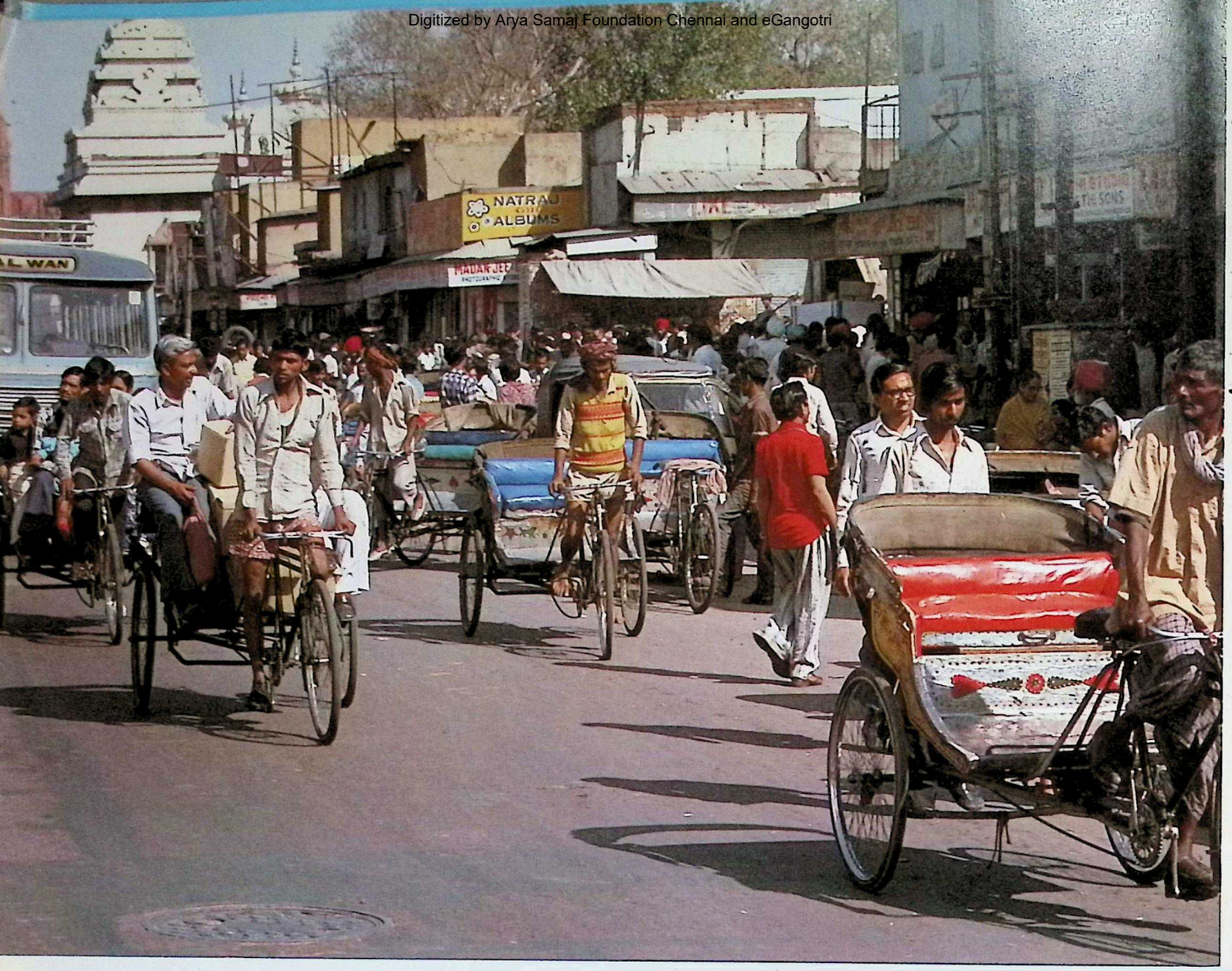
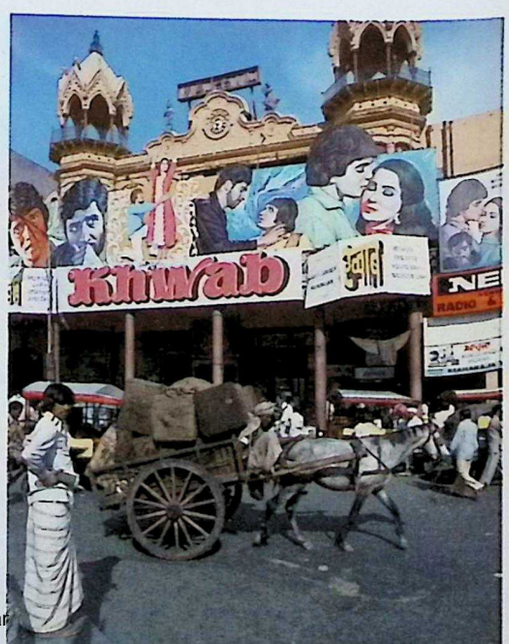


At the heart of the Old City, west of the Red Fort, lies the historic and picturesque Chandni-Chauk above, left and below, *the famous thoroughfare of the 17th-century city which was one of the most delightful markets in the contemporary East.*

It is thought that the Qutb Minar, a five storey tower right, *was also intended for use by a 'crier' to call the faithful to prayer in the Quwwat ul Islam Mosque which is also contained within the Qutb Minar Enclosure.*



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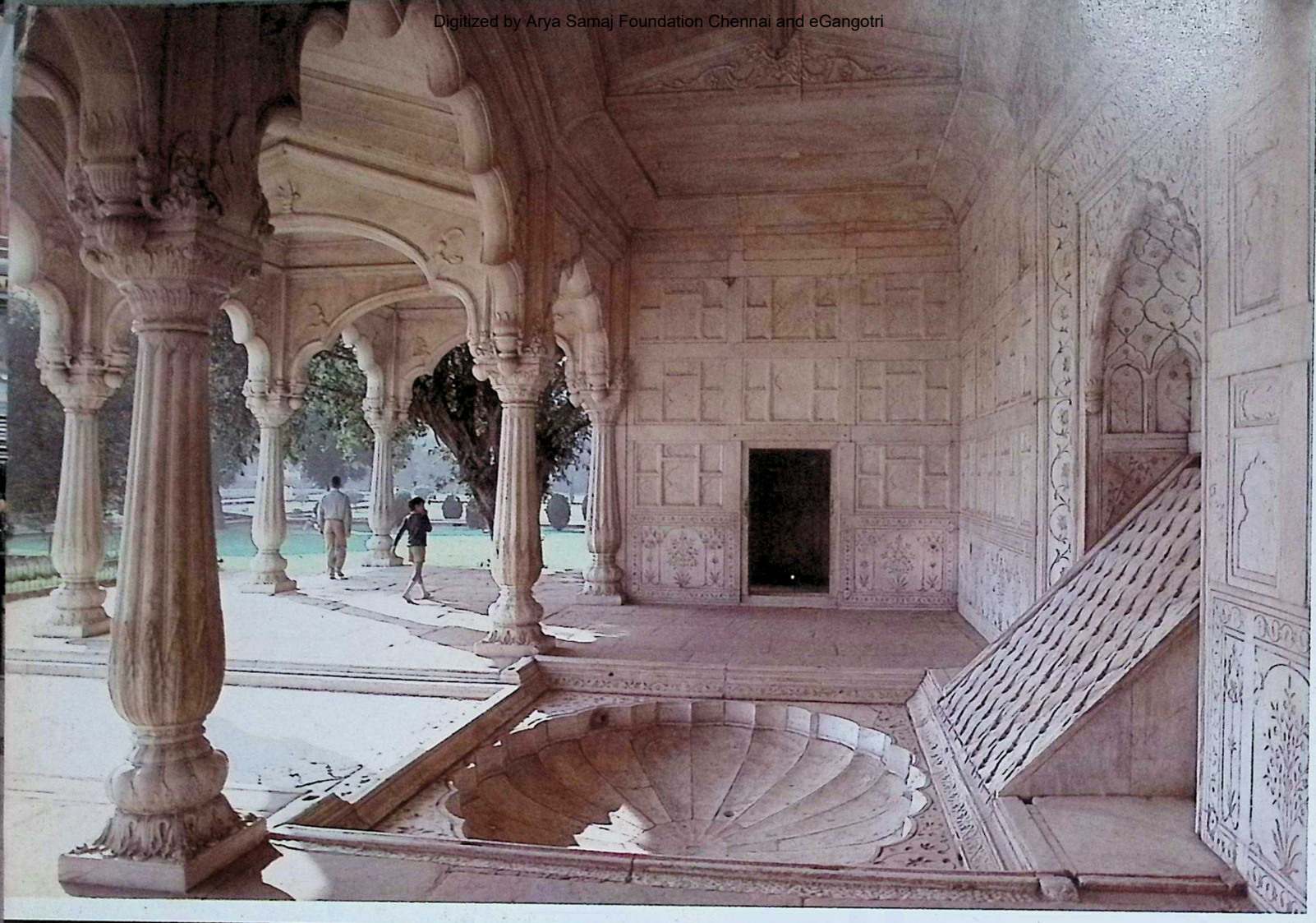

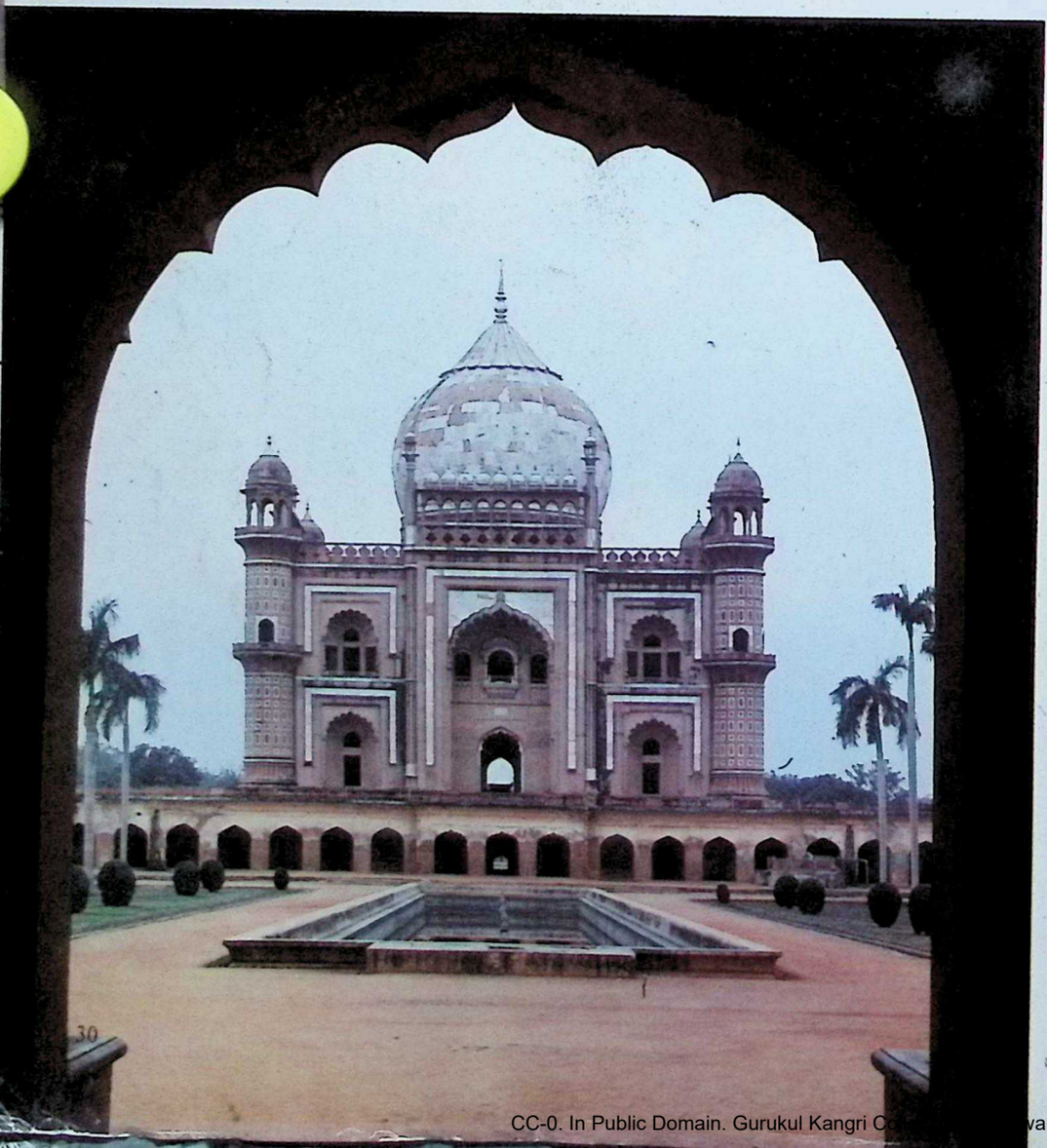

Among the many fine examples of Kushan art in the Delhi National Museum are the Sri Lakshmi (Goddess of Prosperity) below *and the 'Scene in Courtesan's House'* right, *both of 2nd century AD origin from the Muttra District.* Left *is shown the mausoleum of Nawab Safdar Jang seen from the gateway approach, in Delhi, and* above *is the interior of one of the charming detached pavilions known as Savan and Bhadon at Gopal-Bhawan, Dig.*

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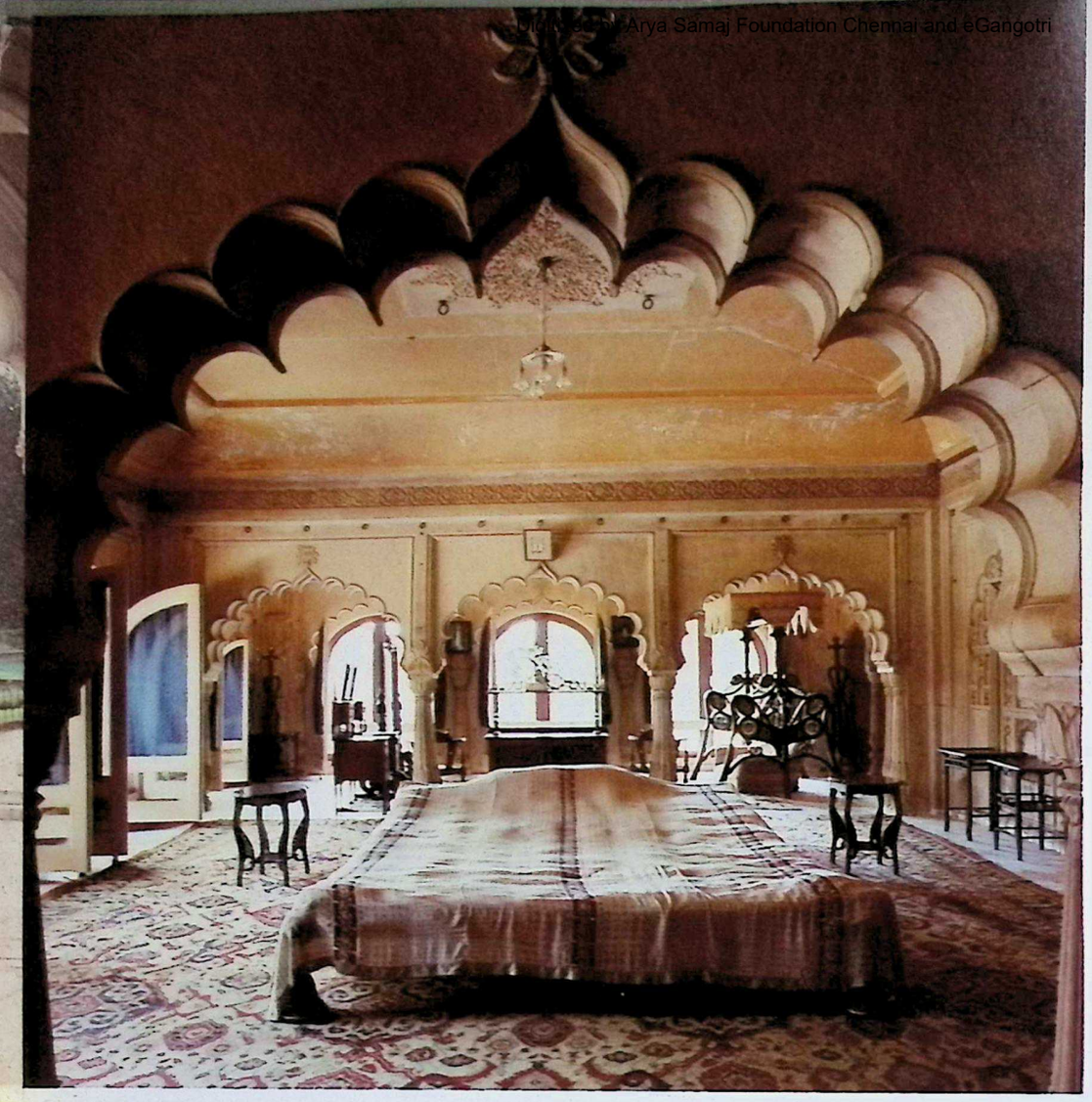
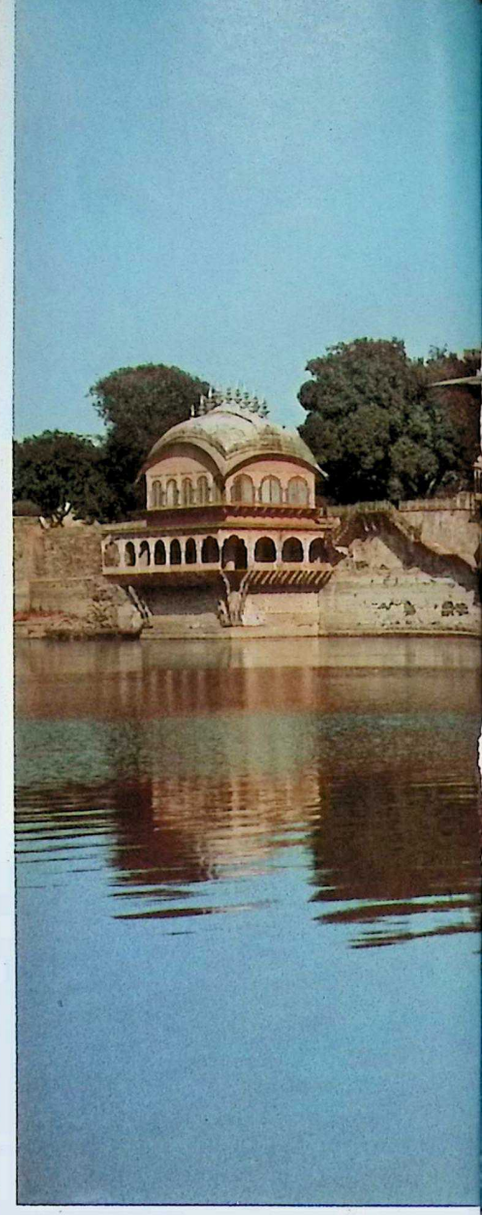
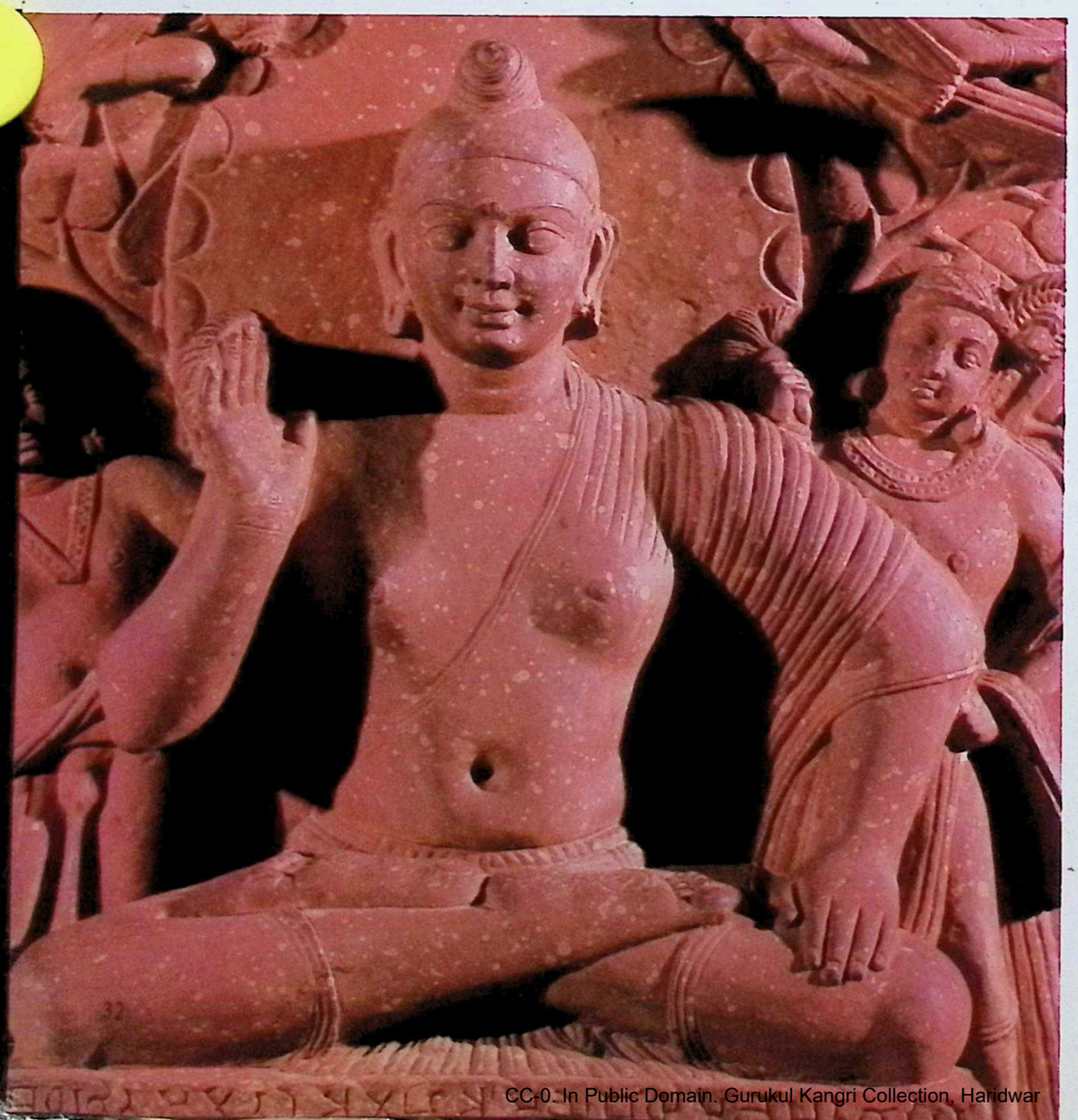
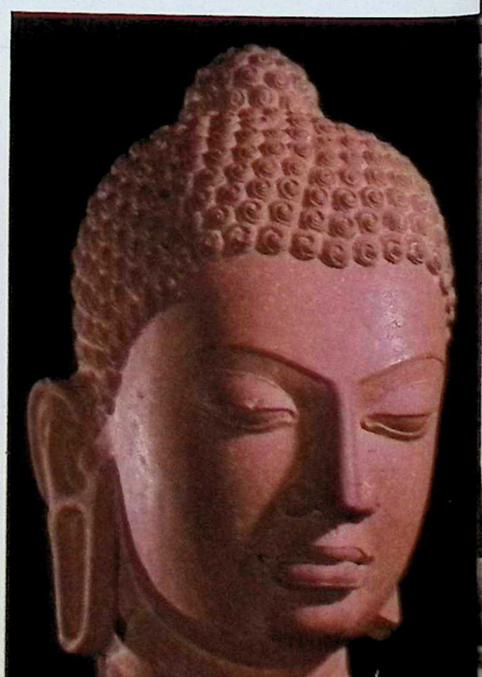






Dig is famous for its splendid group of palaces built by Suraj Mal of Bharatpur. The largest is the Gopal Bhawan, its superb western façade seen above, *beyond the waters of the Gopal Sagar.* Above left *is shown the Maharaja's bedroom within the palace's airy interior, and* right *the open pavilion of Kesav-Bhawan.*

The 1st-century AD Bodhisattva left *and the Gupta period Buddha Head* below *can be seen in Muttra's Curzon Museum of Archaeology.*



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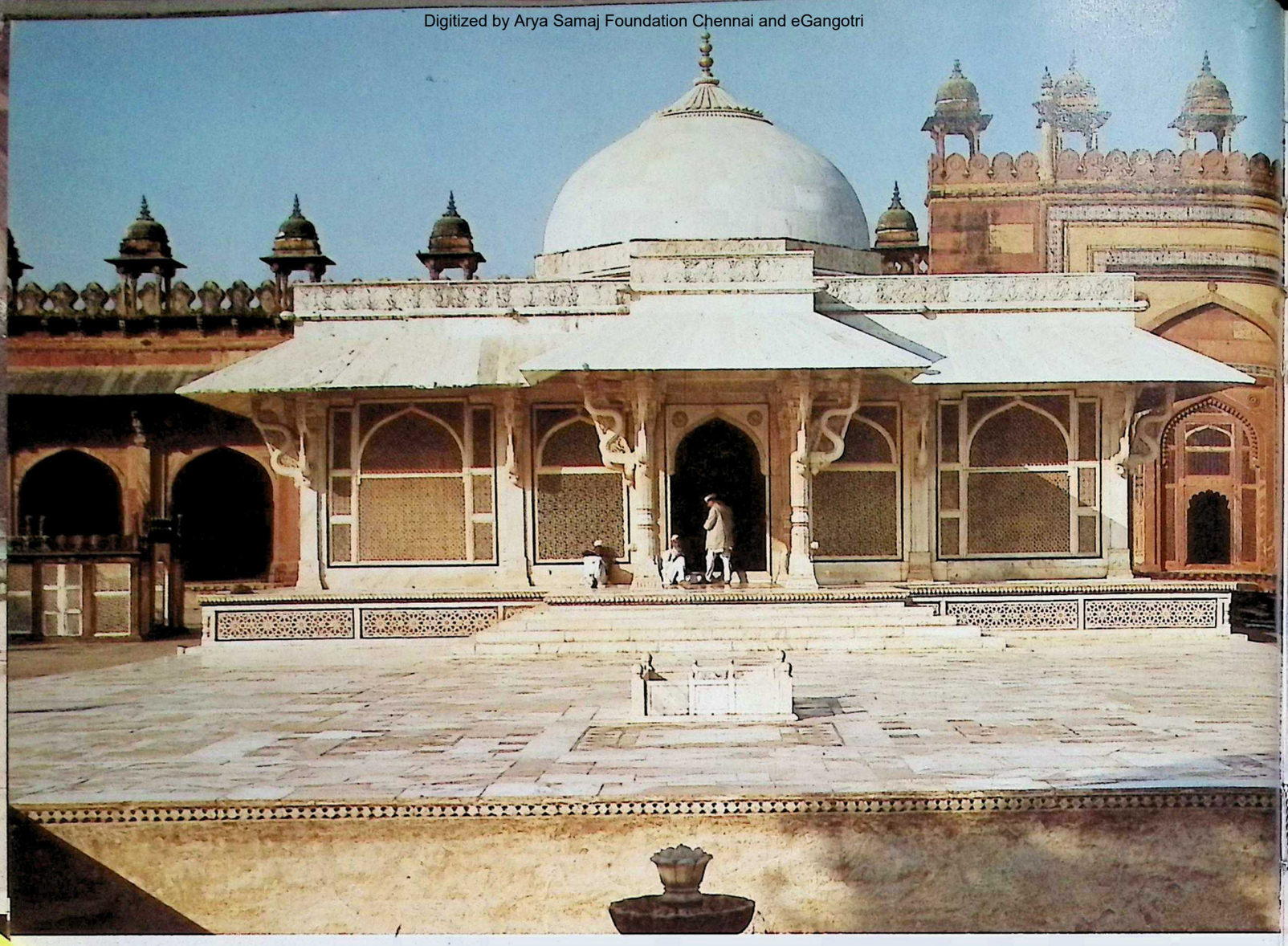

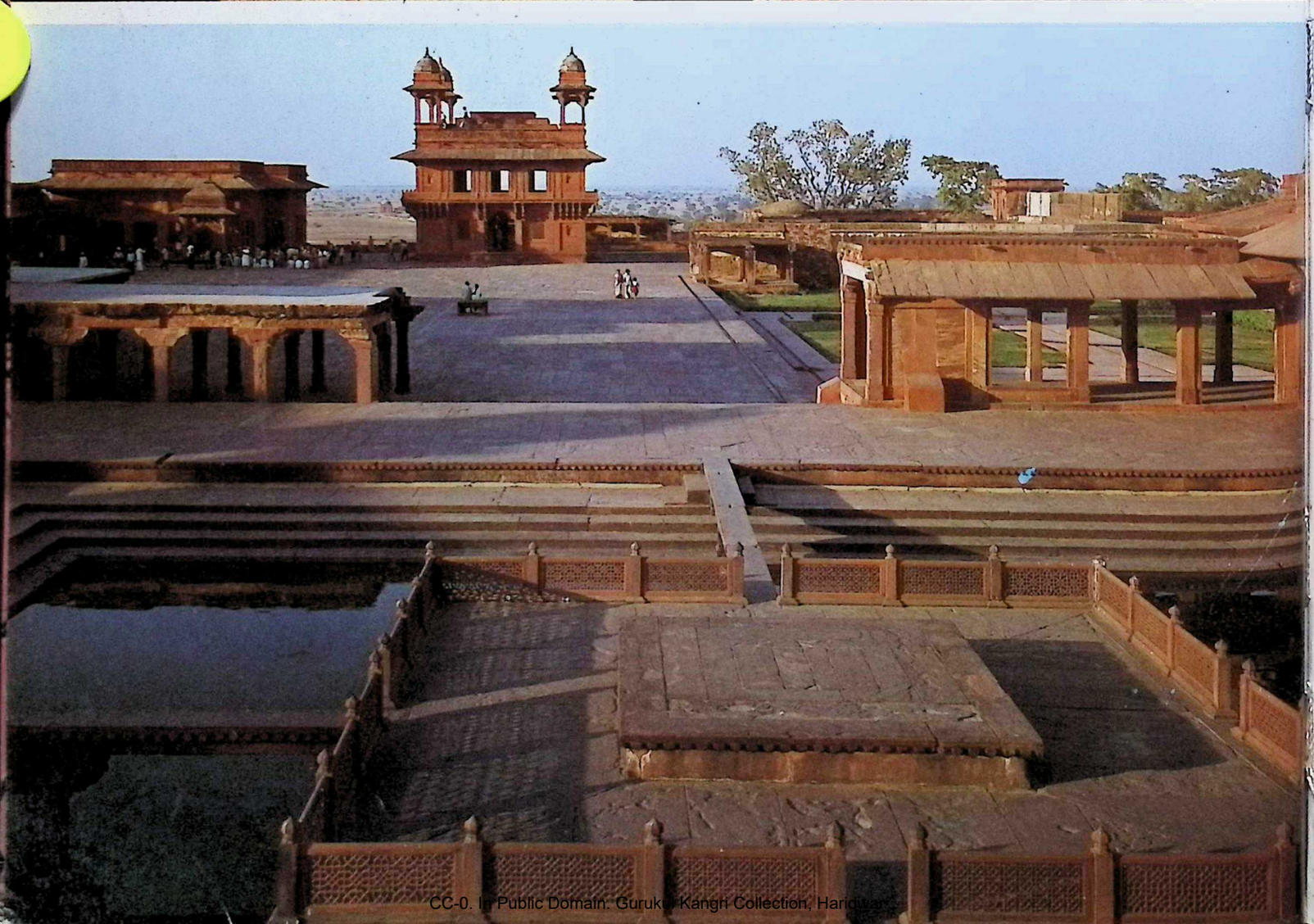

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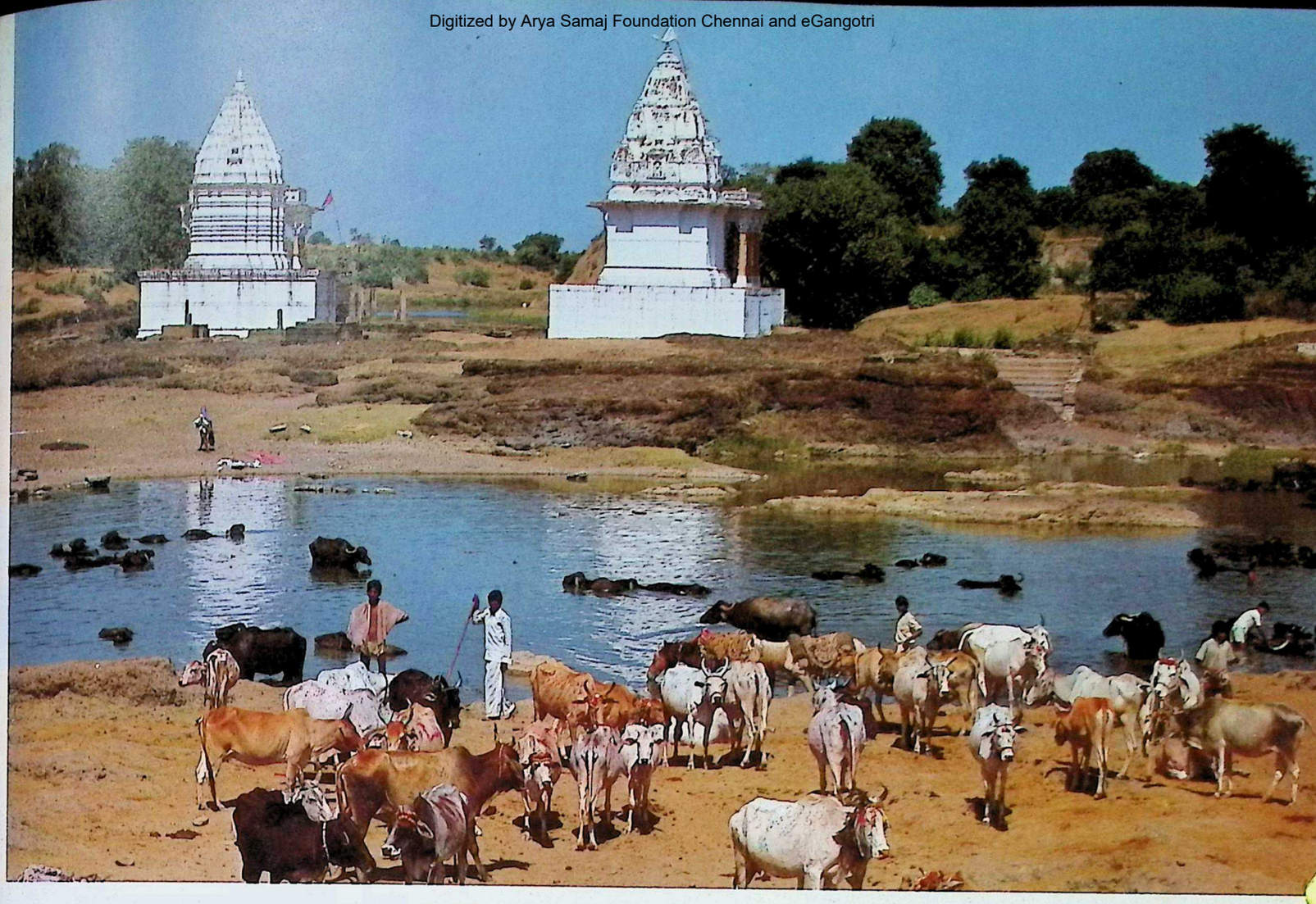
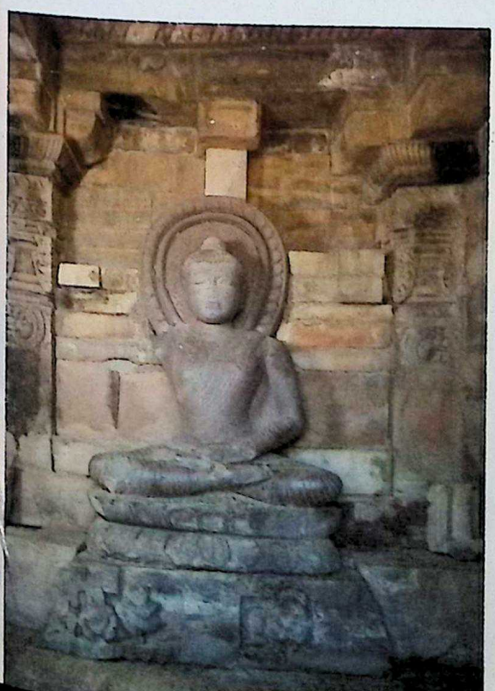


The superb monuments at Sanchi are the largest of several groups of Buddhist monuments located close to the ancient city of Vidisa. Perfect examples of Buddhist architecture, most of the monuments were excavated during the early 20th century by Sir John Marshall. Yakshi and Elephants left *adorn the East Gate of the Great Stupa, or Tope. On its North Gate may be seen the intricate architraves* right, *portraying many episodes in the life of the Buddha, whilst within the sanctum of Temple 45 is enshrined an image of the Buddha* below.

On the banks of the Betwa River, near Vidisa, rise the white-walled Jain Temples above.



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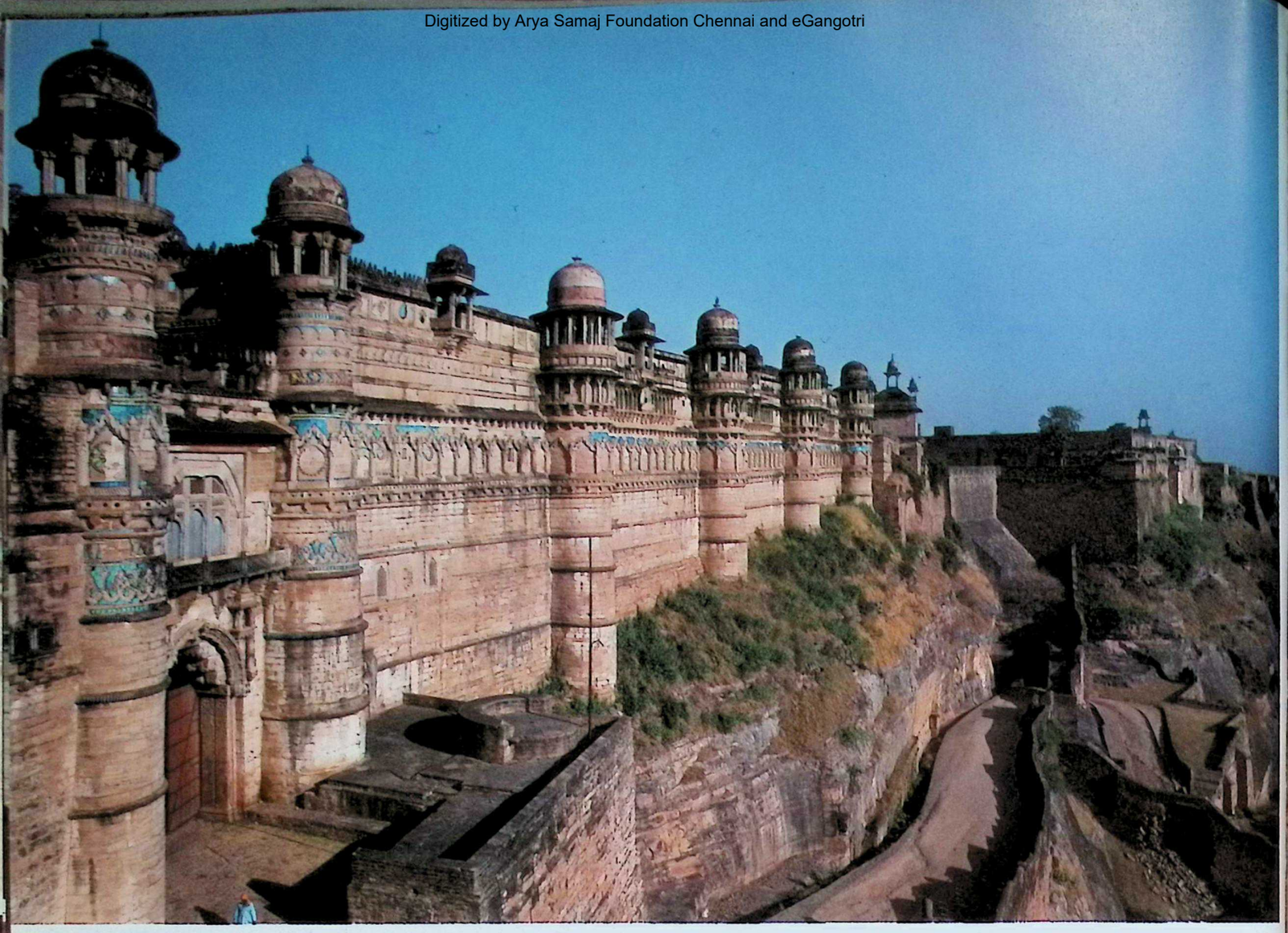
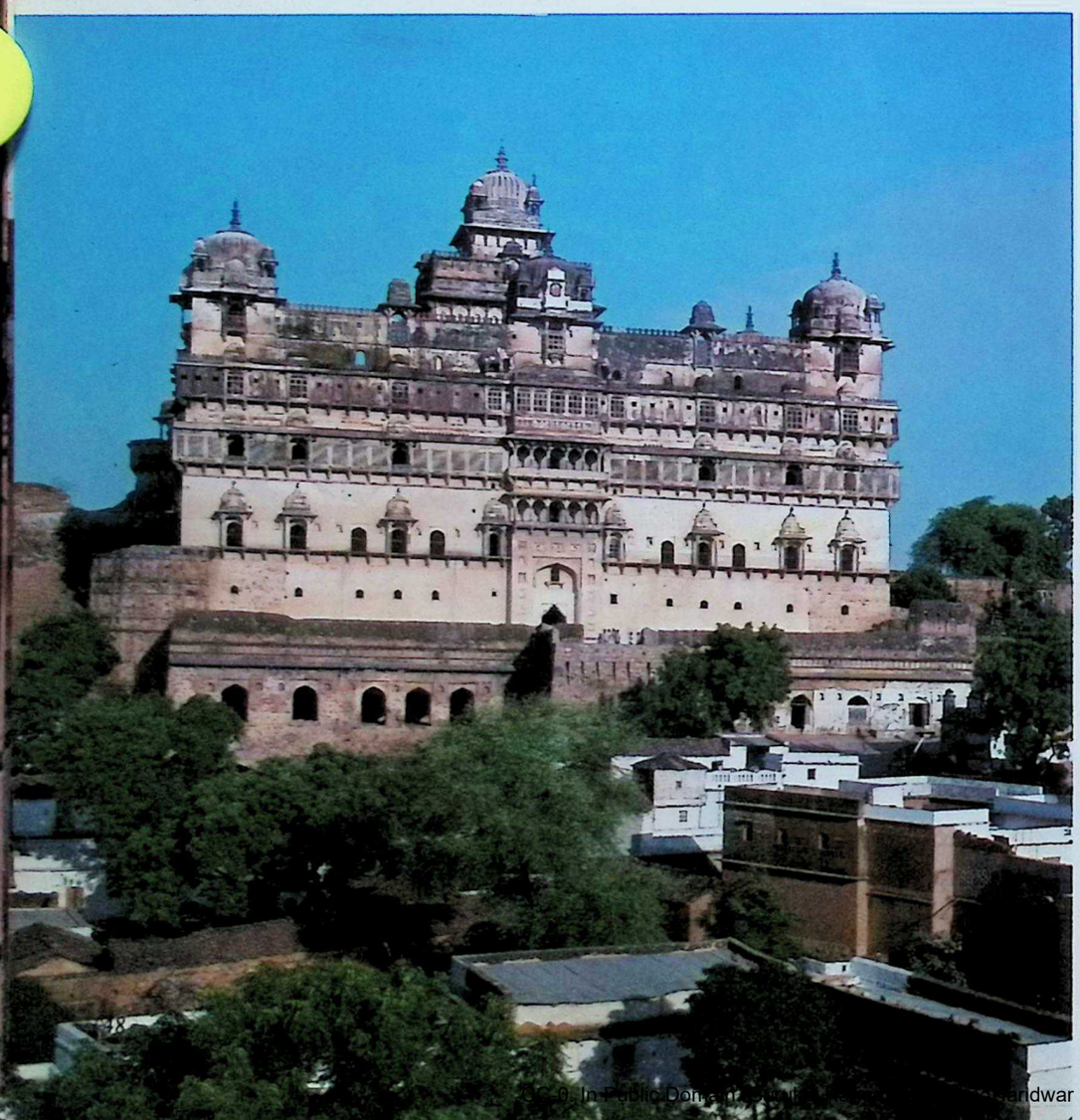
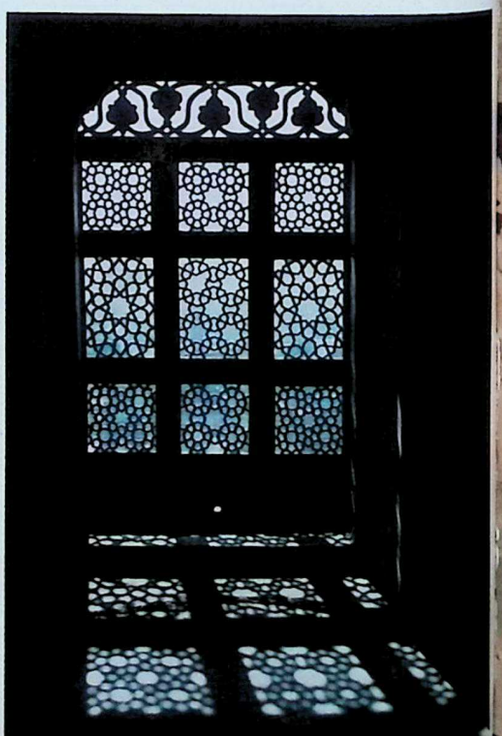




Also called the Painted Palace, Man Singh Palace above *is one of the five palaces at Gwalior, celebrated for its Great Fort and Jain statues. These unique rock sculptures include the gigantic Arwahi Group* right.

Situated on a hill inside the walls of Datia is the Govind Palace of Bir Singh Deo left *and* overleaf right *which is now untenanted.* Below and overleaf left *can be seen the splendid architectural features of its interior.*



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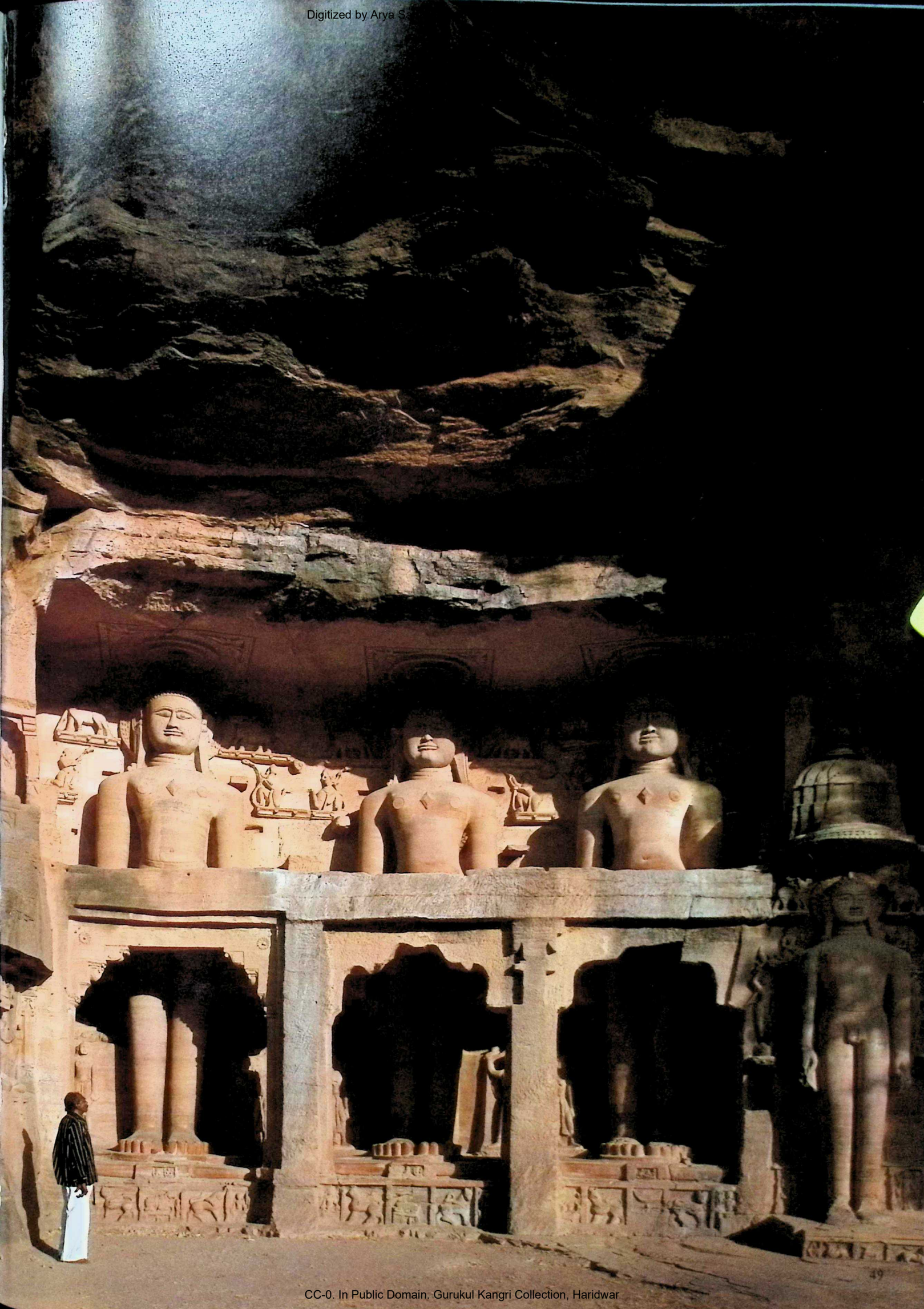

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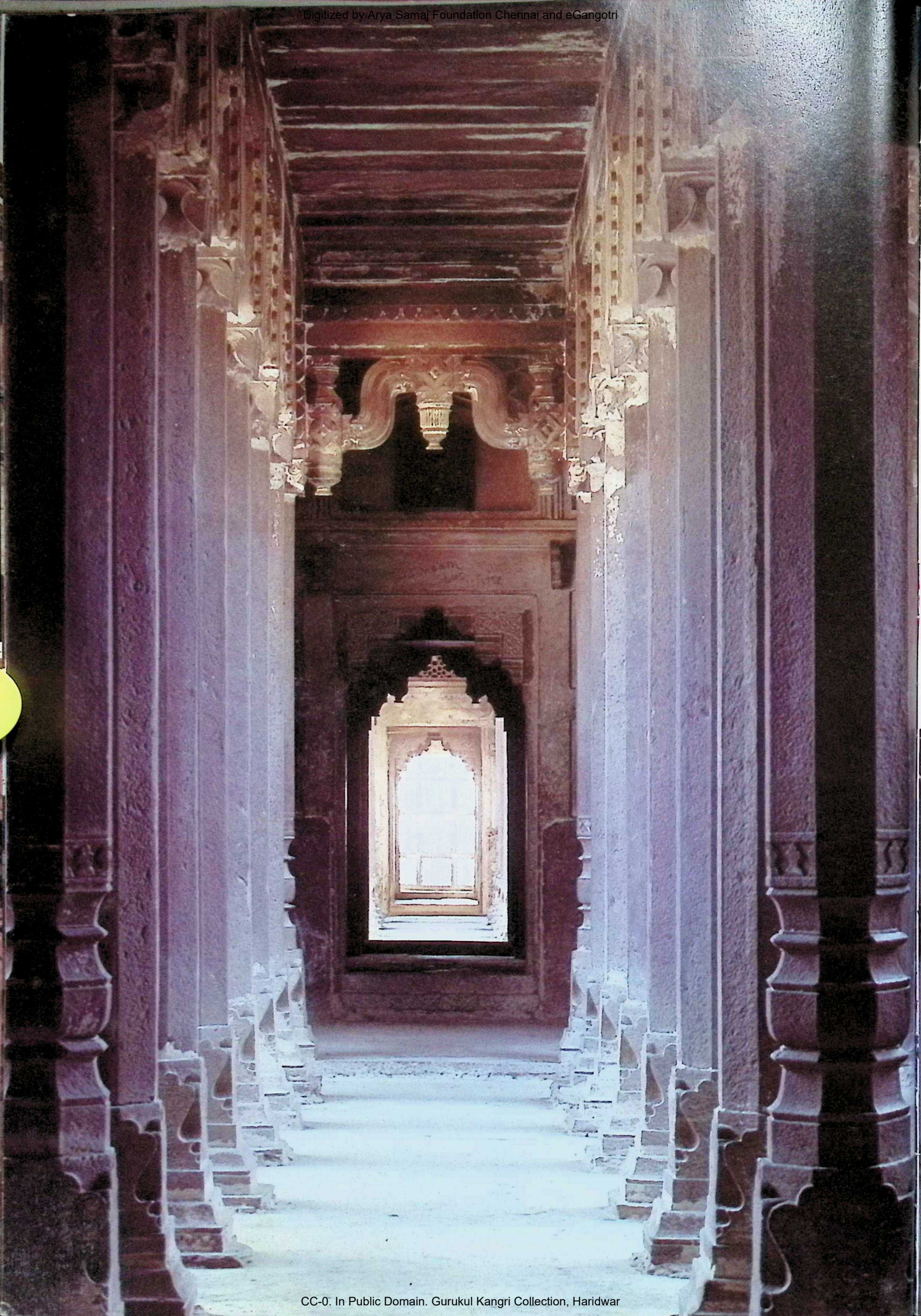

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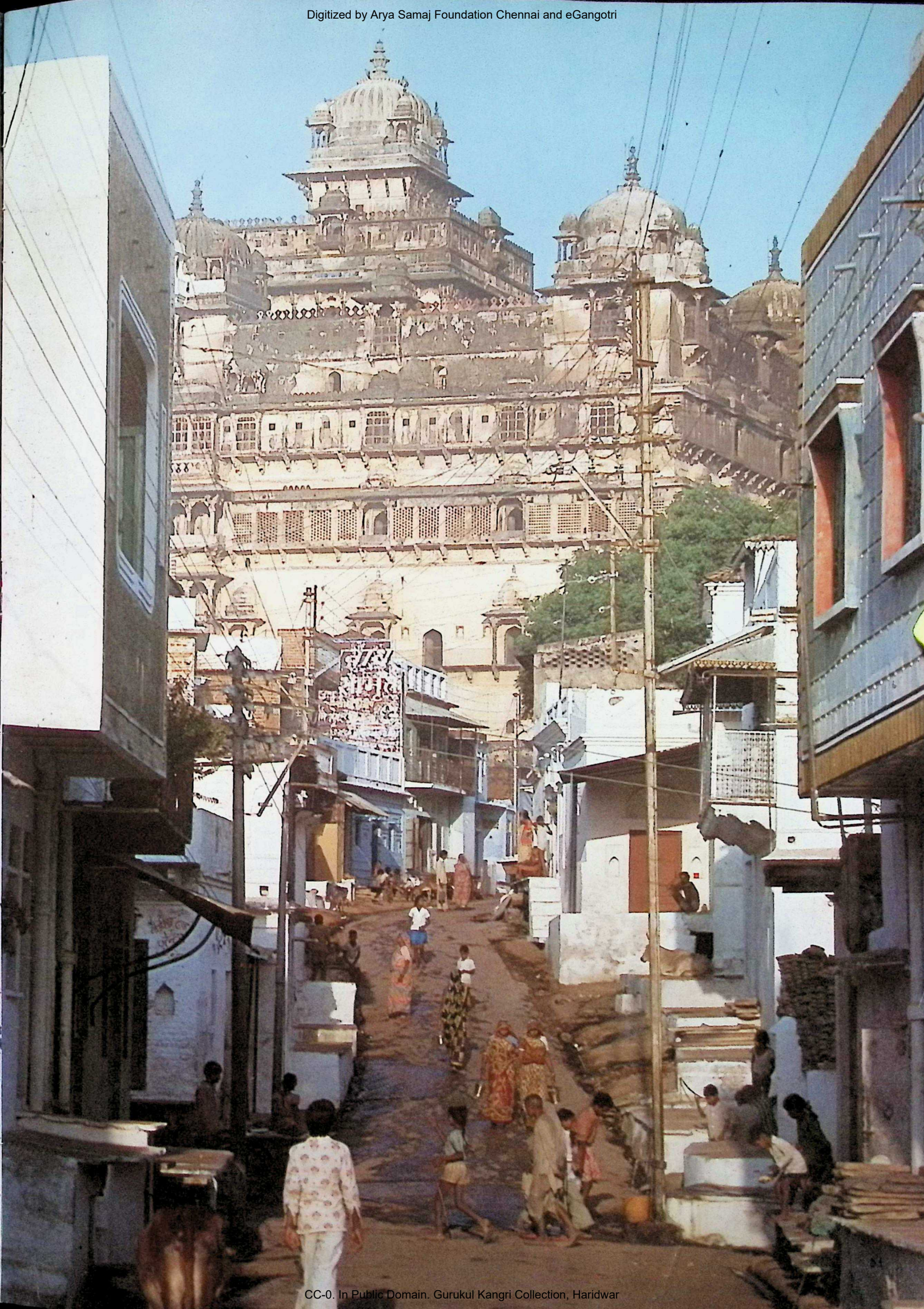

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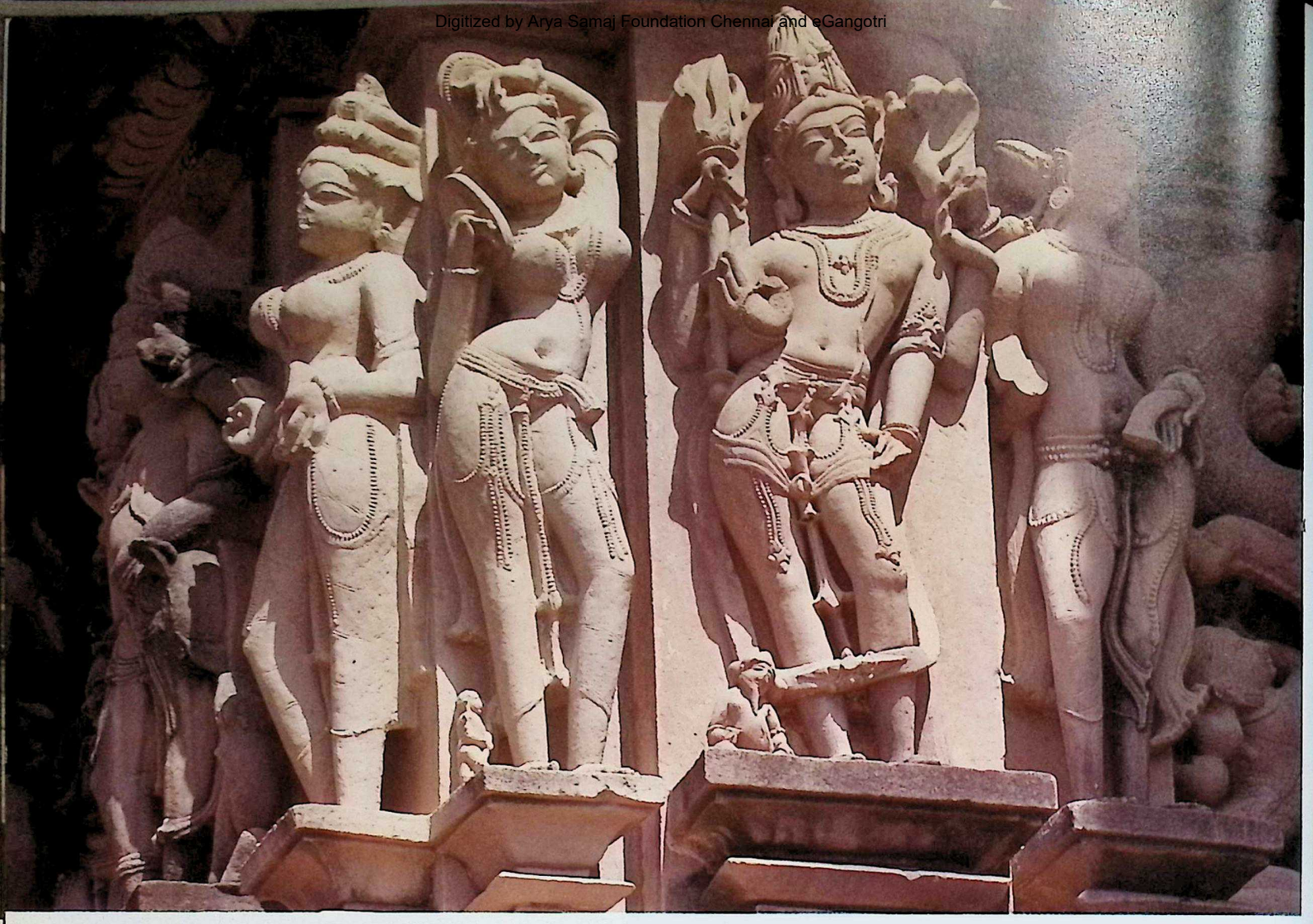
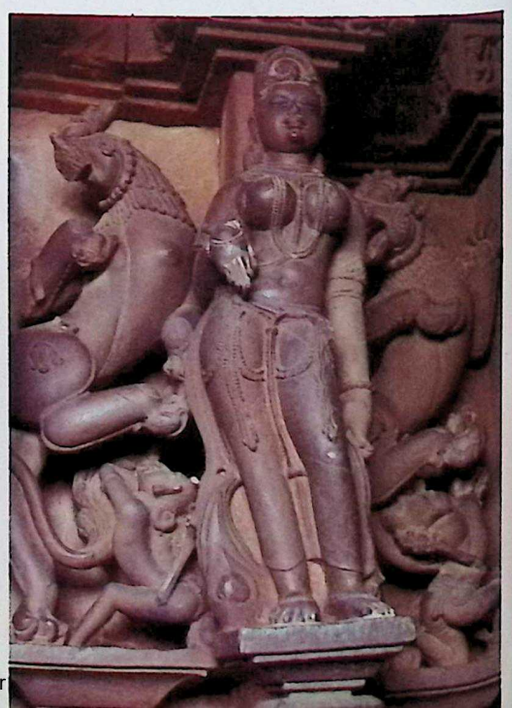


At Khajuraho these pages, *one of the capitals of the Chandel Rajput kings between the 10th and 12th centuries AD, stands one of the most important groups of temples in India. Of the original fifty temples, twenty-two survive, scattered over an area covering roughly eight square miles. Most are constructed of local sandstone, and are adorned with superb figure sculpture; both the interior and exterior being lavishly embellished with exquisite carving. The largest of the group is the monumental Saiva temple of Kandaruja-Mahadeva* overleaf left, *enshrining a linga.*



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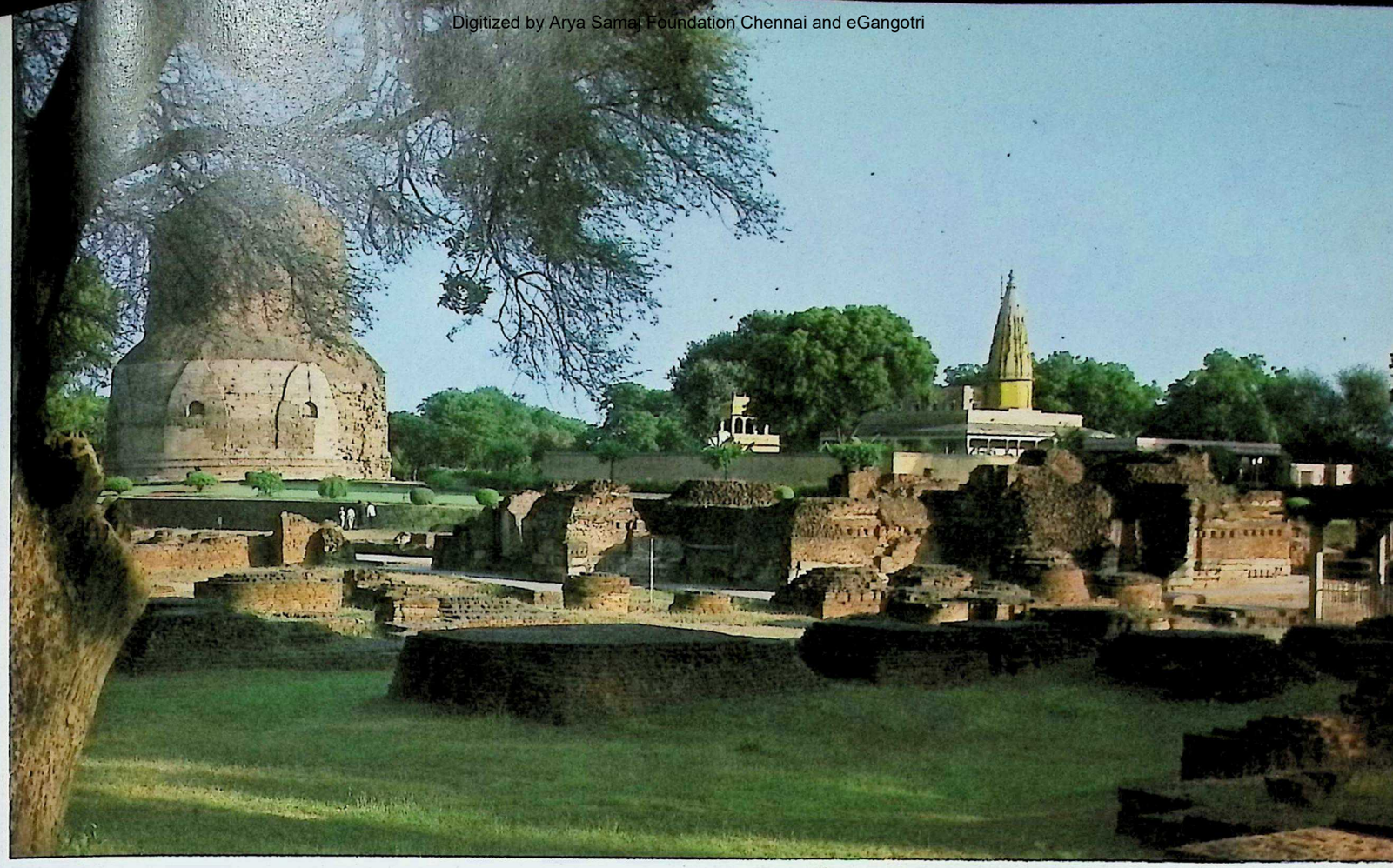
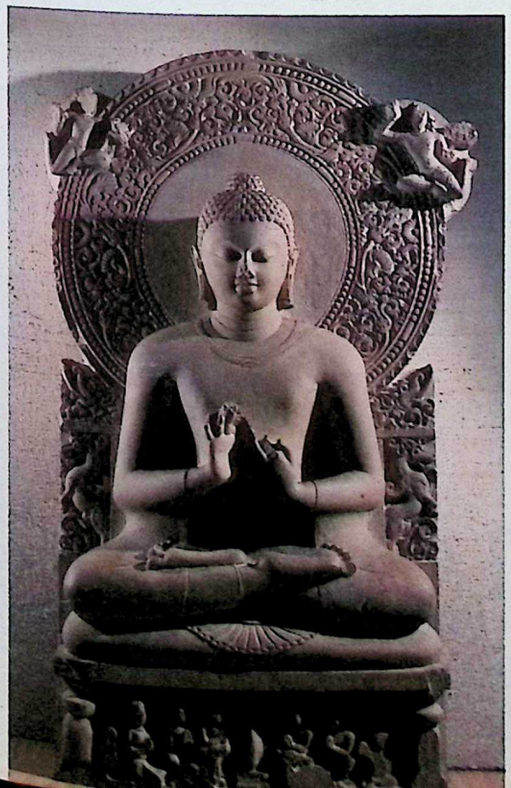
Sarnath, situated four miles north of Benares, was known as the 'Deer Park' and is revered as the site where the Buddha preached his first sermon; commemorated in the Dhamek Stupa seen to the left above.

Within the Sarnath Museum may be seen a wealth of sculptures and carvings, including the important 5th-century AD Buddha 'Turning the Wheel of the Law,' or preaching below, *and the first representation of the Bodhisattva in human form at Sarnath* right, *a Kushan style statue carved during the 3rd regnal year of Emperor Kanishka.*





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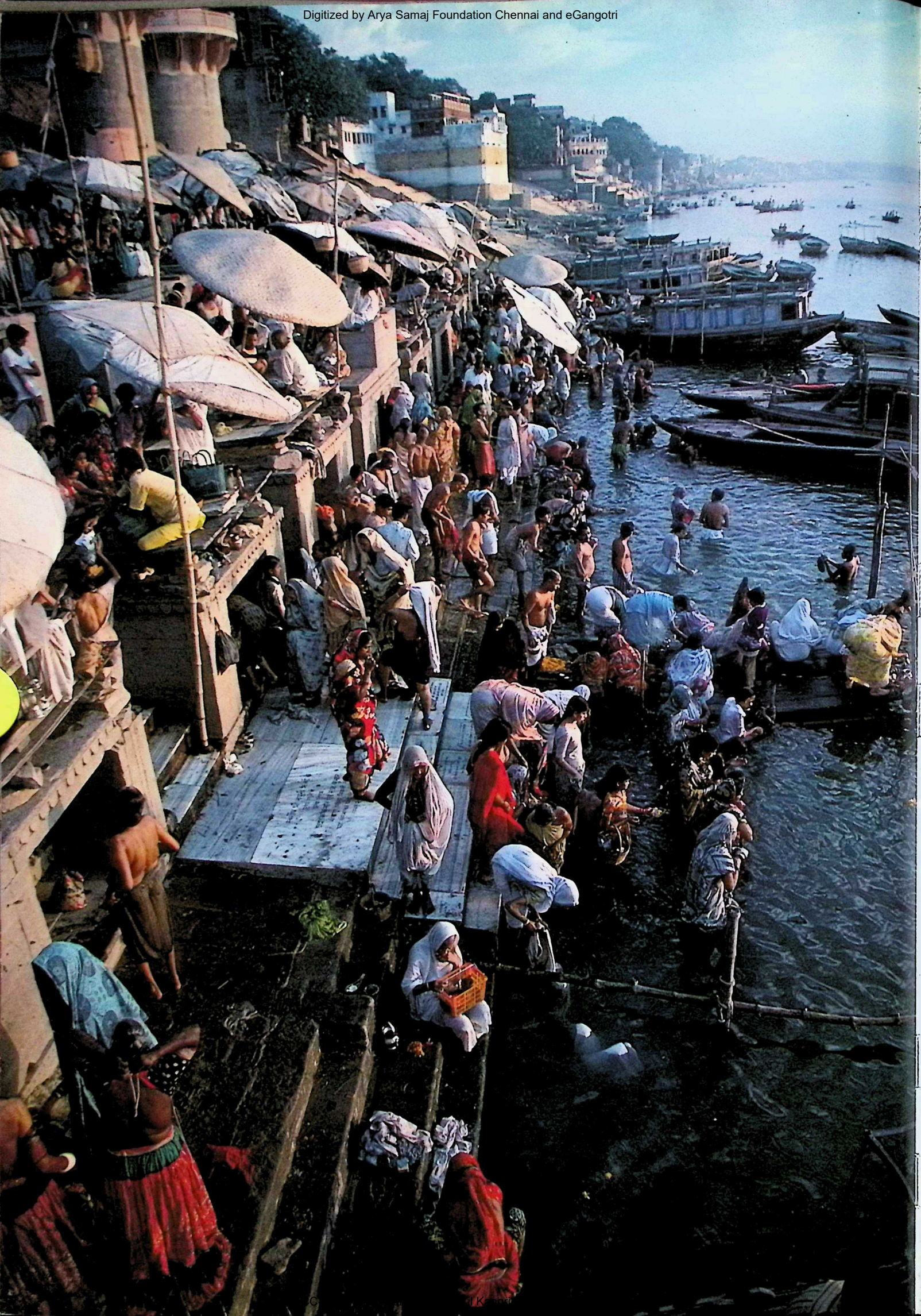

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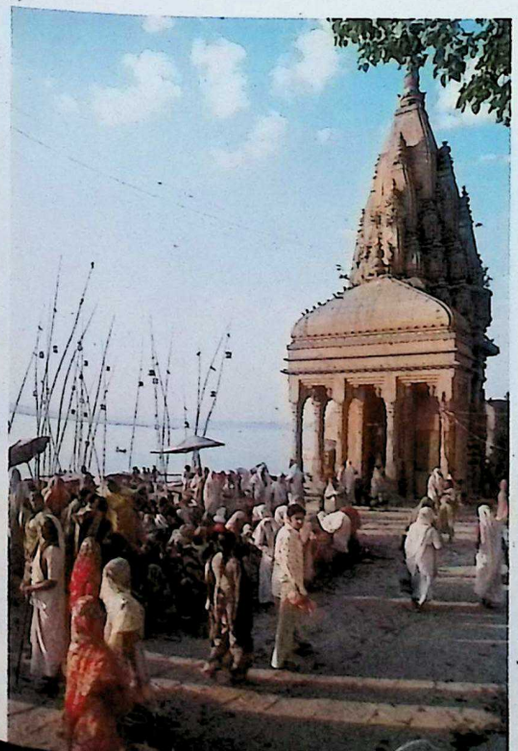
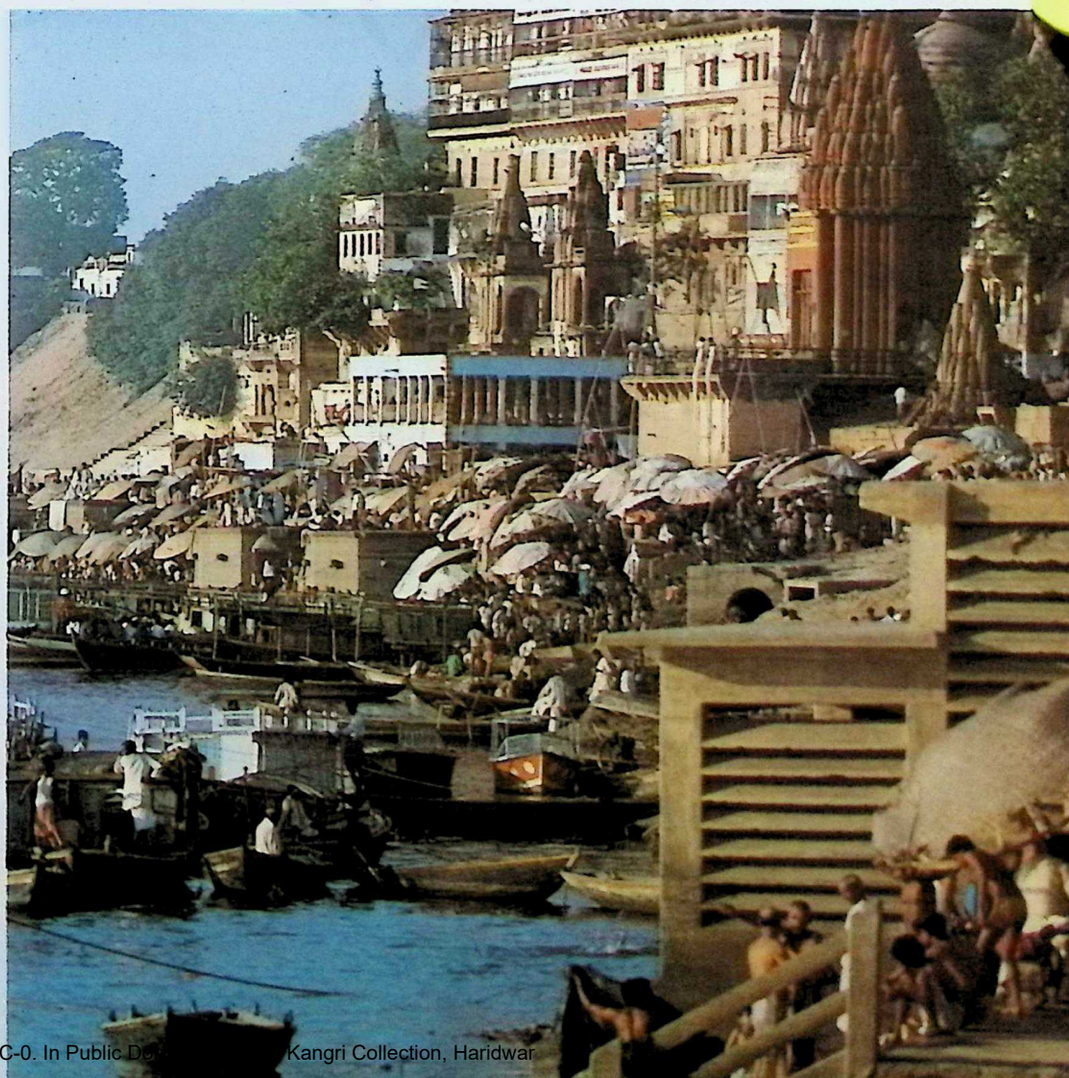
Ranged along the left bank of the Ganges, Benares, or Varanasi these pages and overleaf, *famous for its long line of bathing-ghats and temples, has been the religious capital of India since time immemorial. This historic city, claimed to be the oldest in the world, is the celebrated northern centre of the worship of Siva, and it is estimated that approximately one million pilgrims visit it each year.*





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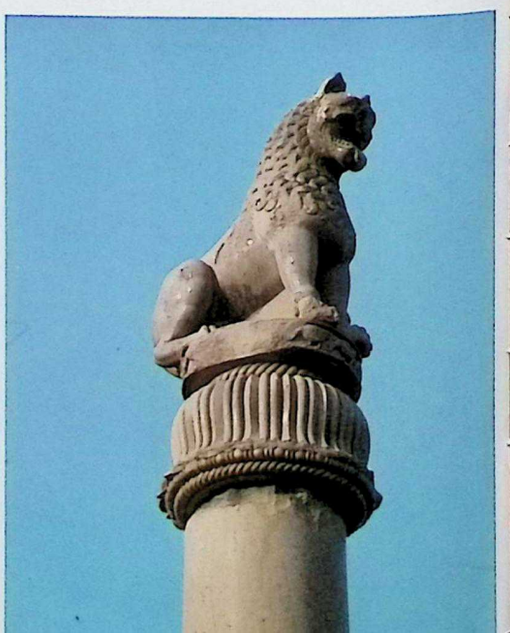
At Bodh Gaya above, left and right, *stands the imposing pyramidal Mahabodhi Temple, its main tower soaring to a height of 180 ft. Close to the temple, near the west wall, grows a pipal tree which is said to be descended from the original Bodhi tree under which the Buddha received enlightenment.*

The Buddhist sandstone lat crowned by a lion below *stands at Lauriya Nandangarh. One of four columns which stood on the road form Patna to Napal, it rises to a height of 33ft. Within the vicinity are funeral mounds reputed to be the only authentic Vedic monuments of positive identification in India.*



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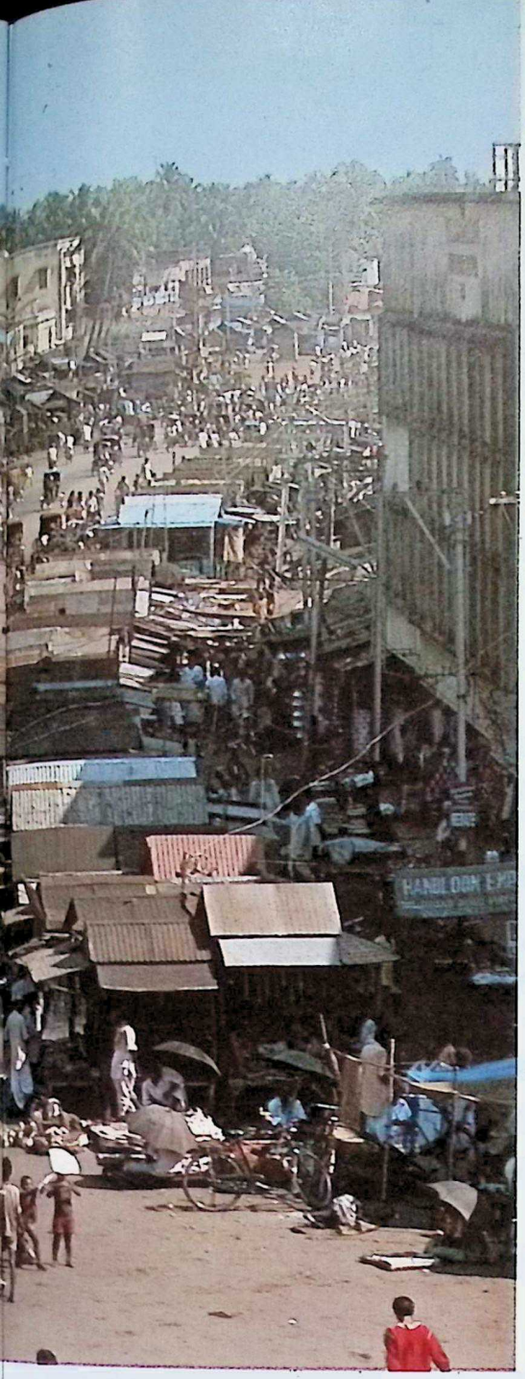
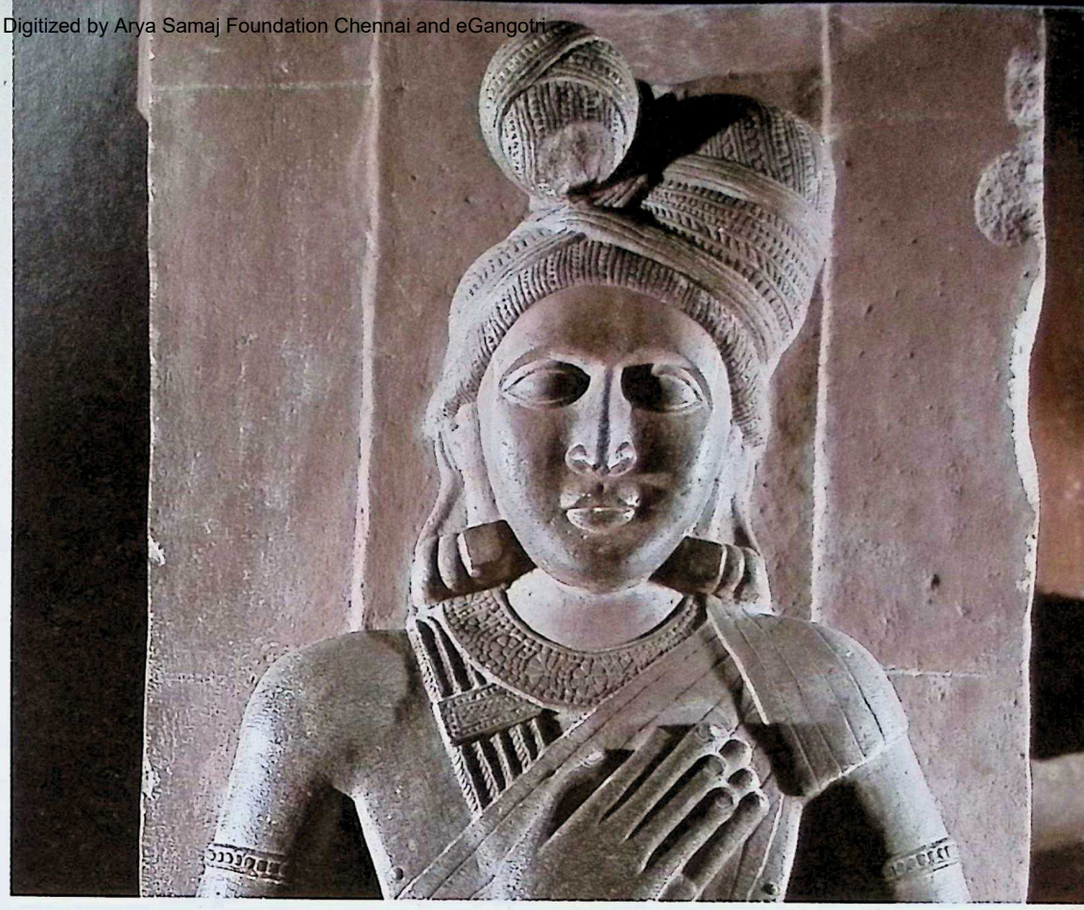
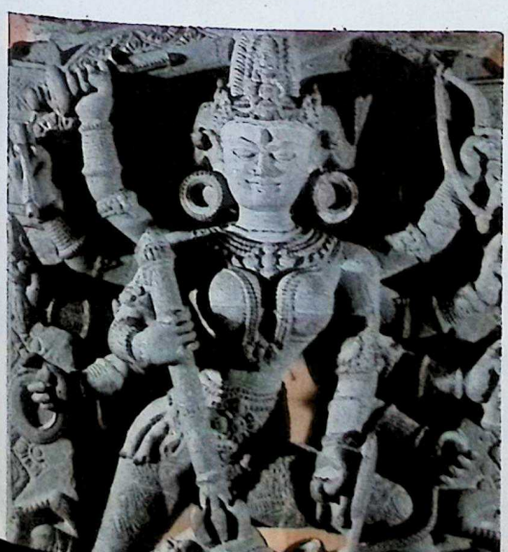




Dominating the south part of Calcutta above, *the capital of West Bengal, which is sited on the left bank of the Hooghly River, is the splendid Victoria Memorial* left. *Within the Indian Museum, known colloquially as the Jadu Garh, or House of Magic, is housed the finest collection of exhibits in the country, including the Yaksha* above right, *from the celebrated Bharhut Stupa railing; the Bodhisattva Maitreya (Buddha-to-be)* below right, *and the 10th-century Mahishamardini* below.



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Celebrated for its awe-inspiring Sun Temple left, *Konarak lies some twenty miles from Puri. The West (Mid-day) God* below *is a superb example of its lavish carvings, whilst the entrance of the Jagmohan* above and below right *is guarded by stone lions which rest on the backs of elephants.*

The finest and smallest of the large group of temples at Bhubaneswar, is the Muktesvara above.

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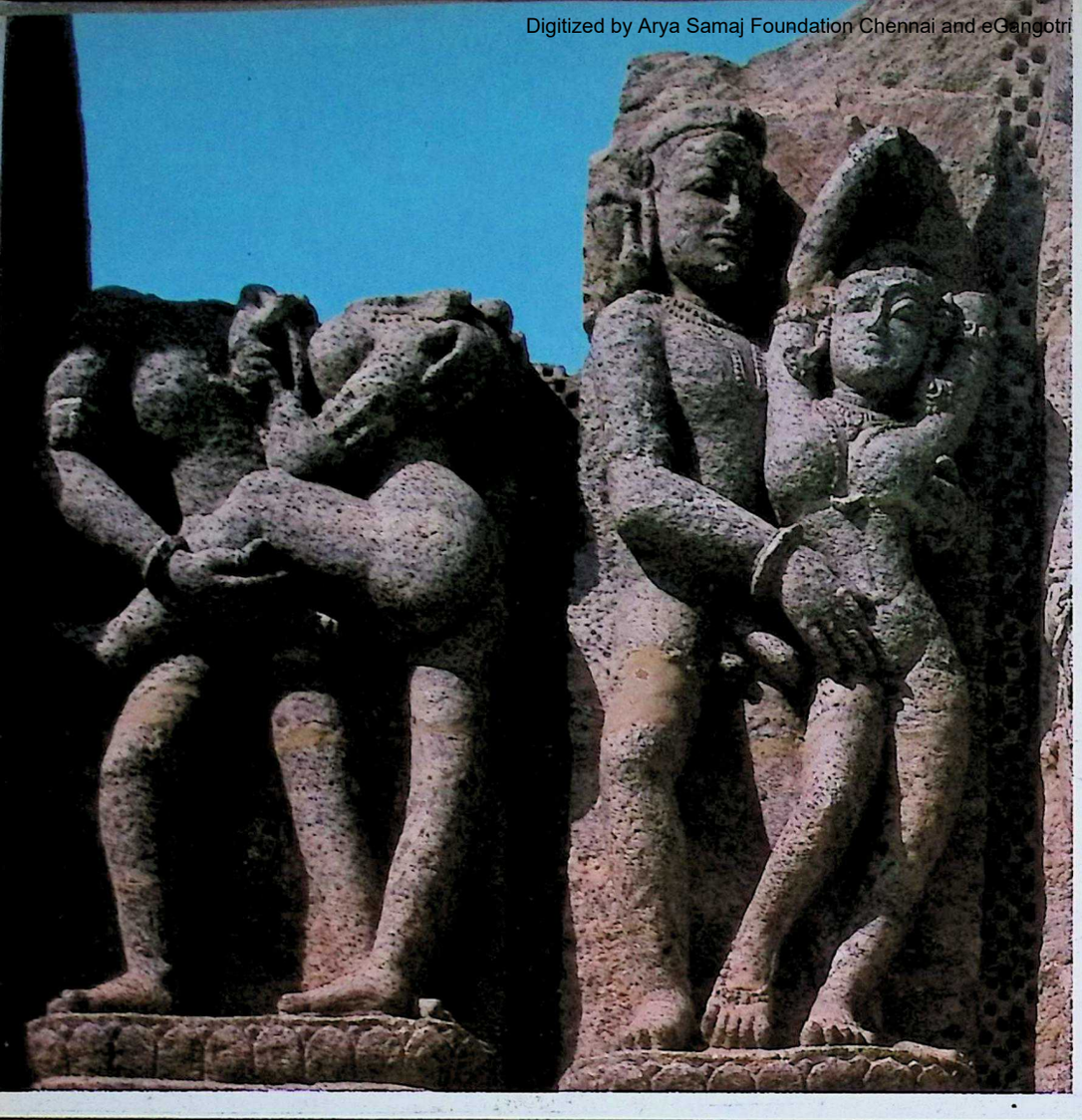
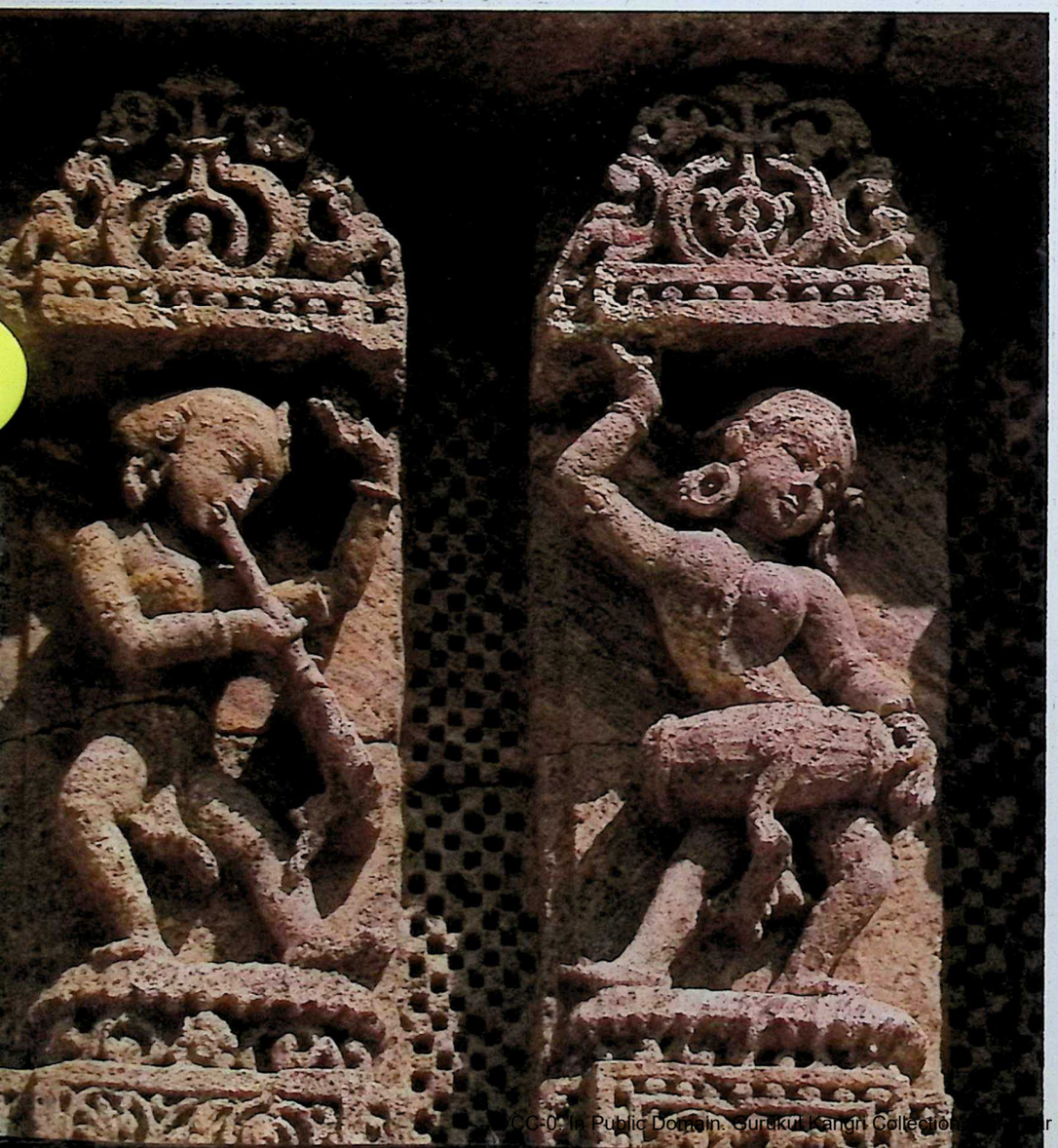


One of the finest monuments of Hinduism, the main temple at Konarak, called the Black Pagoda by early European travellers to distinguish it from the White Pagoda at Puri—both being important coastal landmarks—was, according to Hindu mythology, a colossal chariot dedicated to the Sun God.

The whole building is lavishly covered, inside and out, with elaborate carvings, and in addition to the massive wheels, superbly-sculptured horses and pastoral friezes which adorn the upana, or plinth, are a profusion of carved figures, many of green chlorite, which display a strong sensual element above left and below. *Beautiful kanyas* right *show off their voluptuous beauty; pious nagas, with serpents' tails coiling round pillars, stand regally* above, *whilst exotic musicians play on drum and flute* below left.



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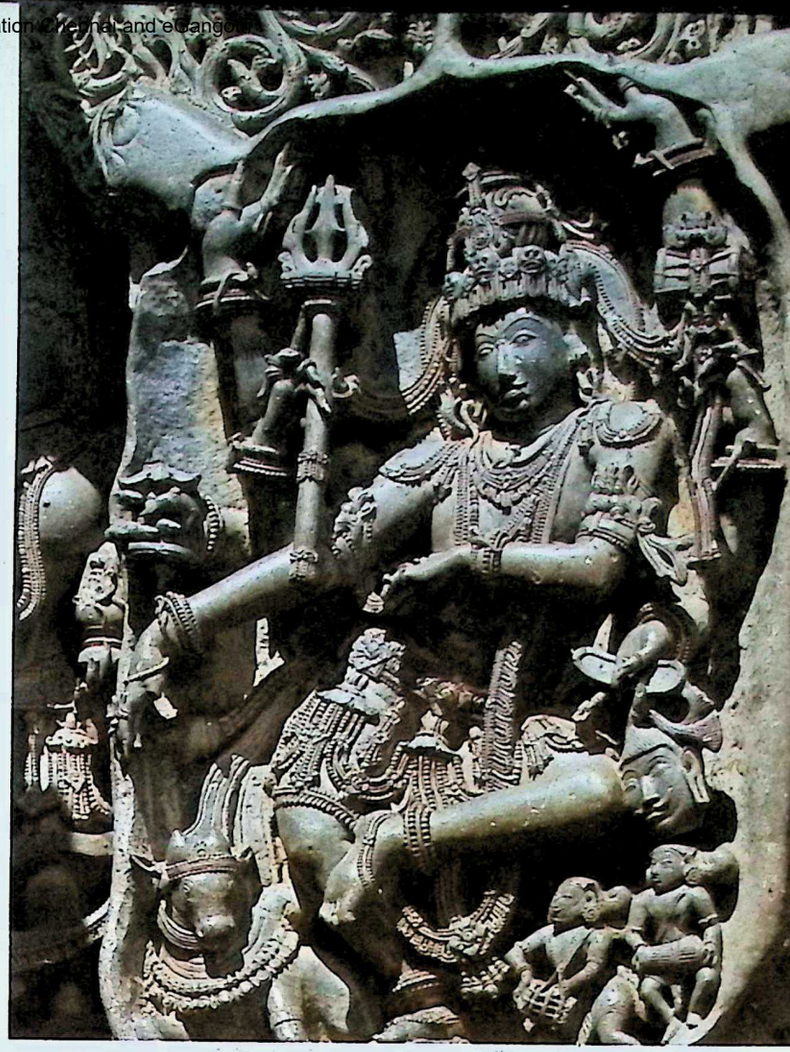

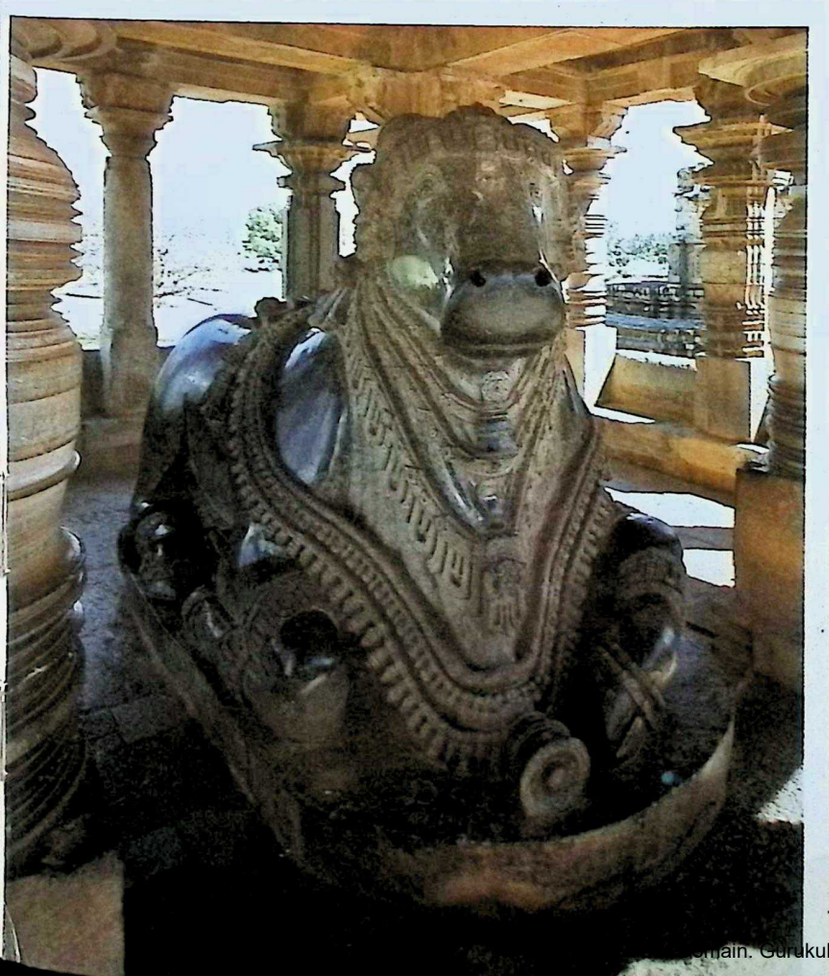

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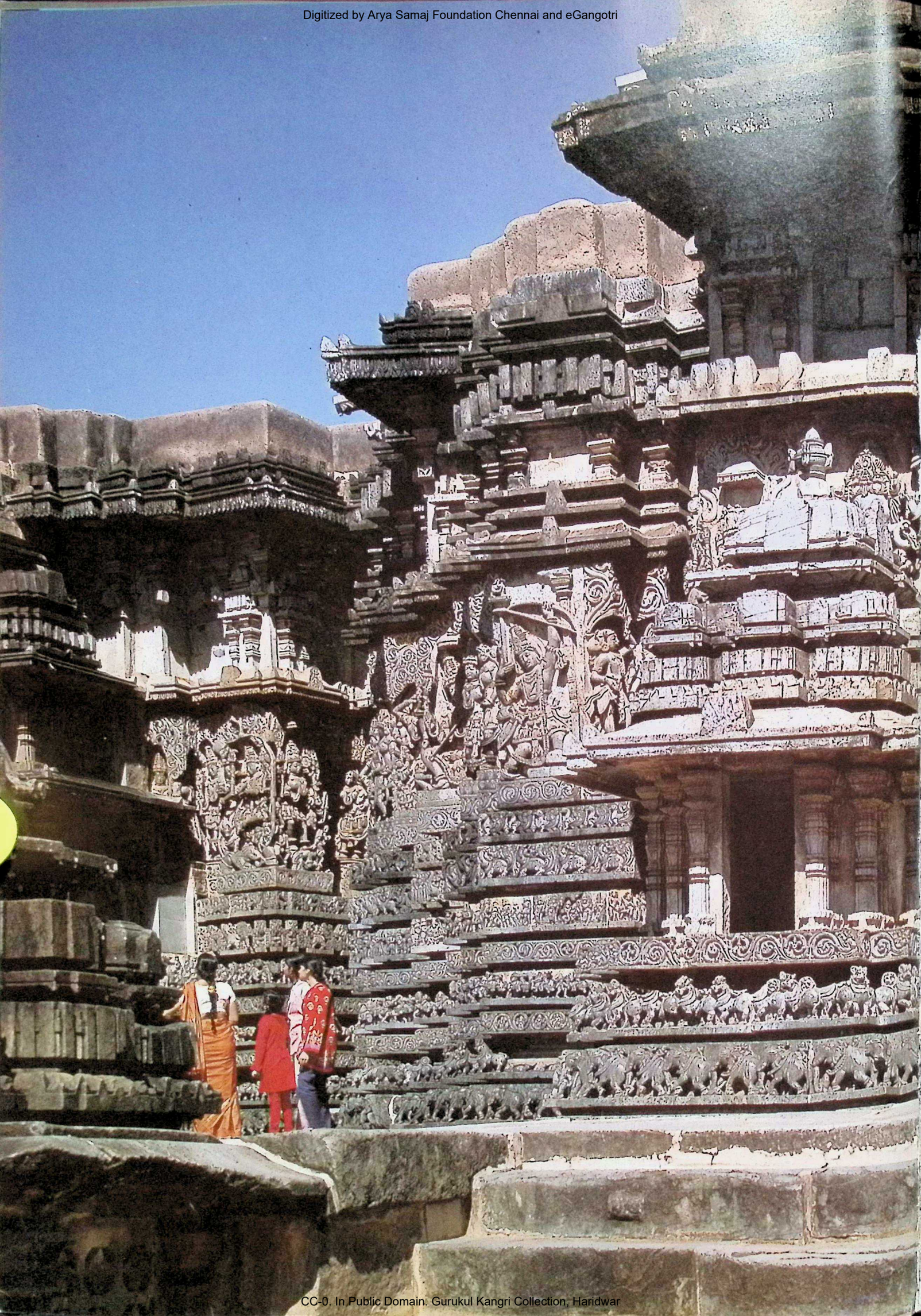

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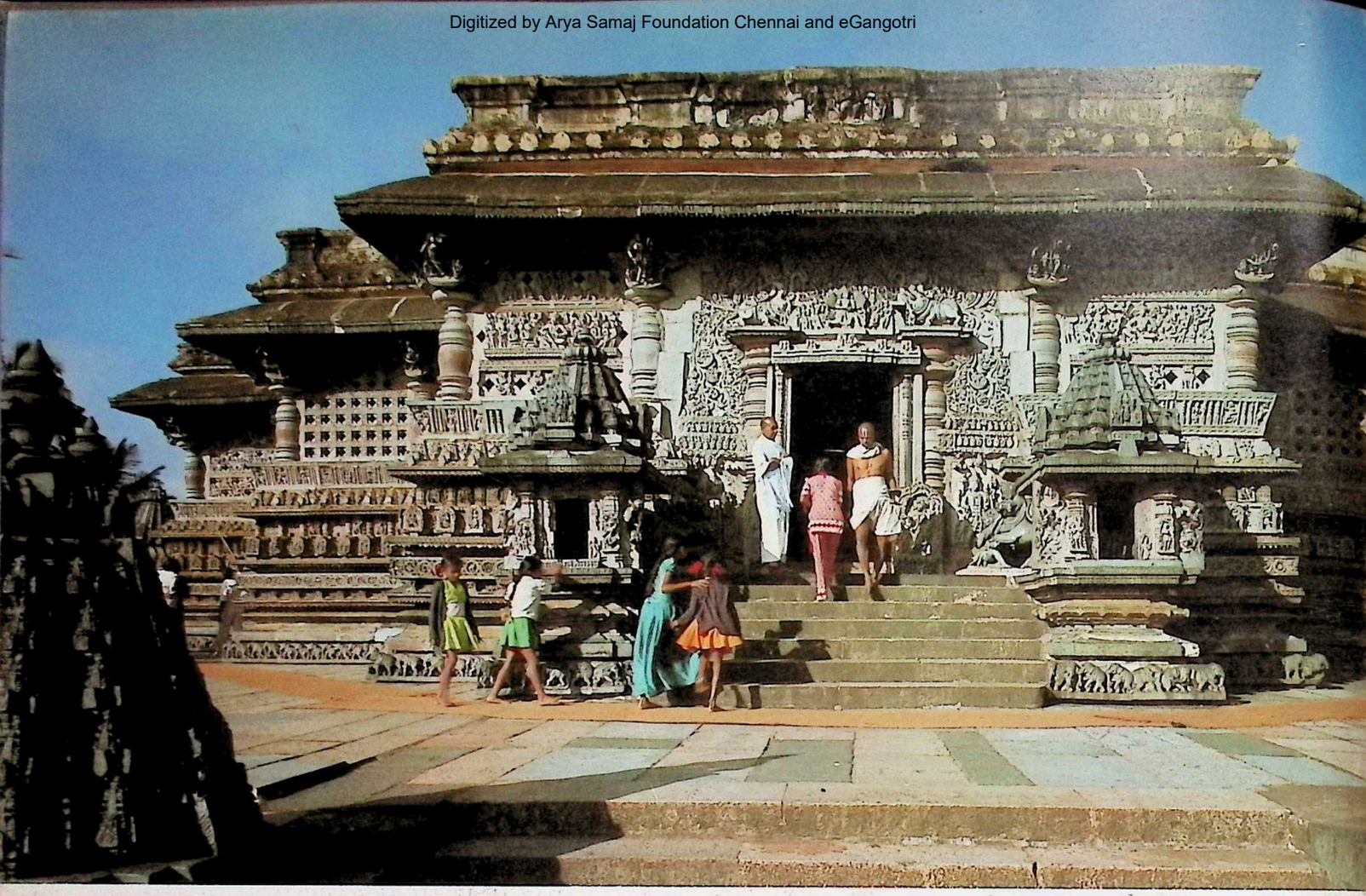

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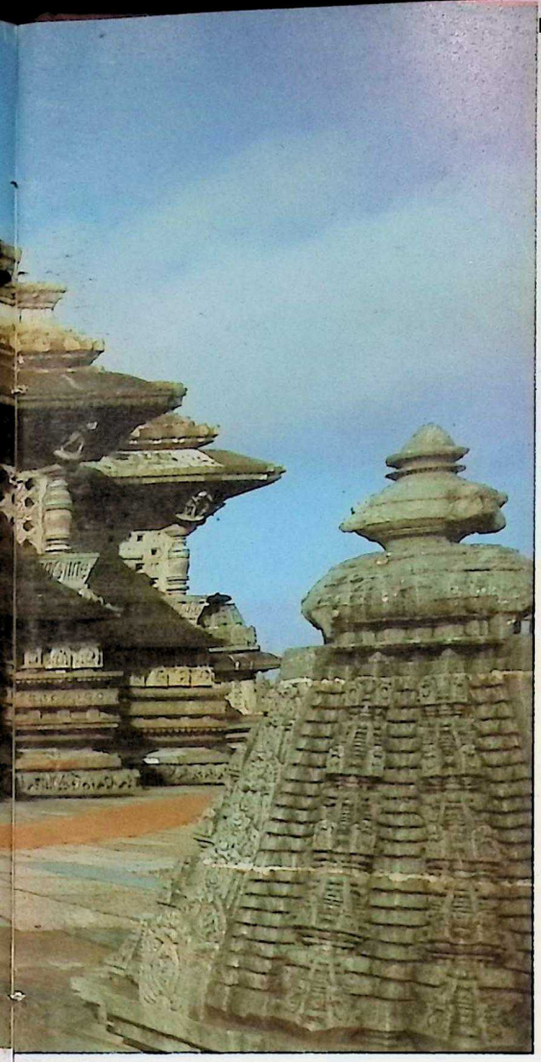
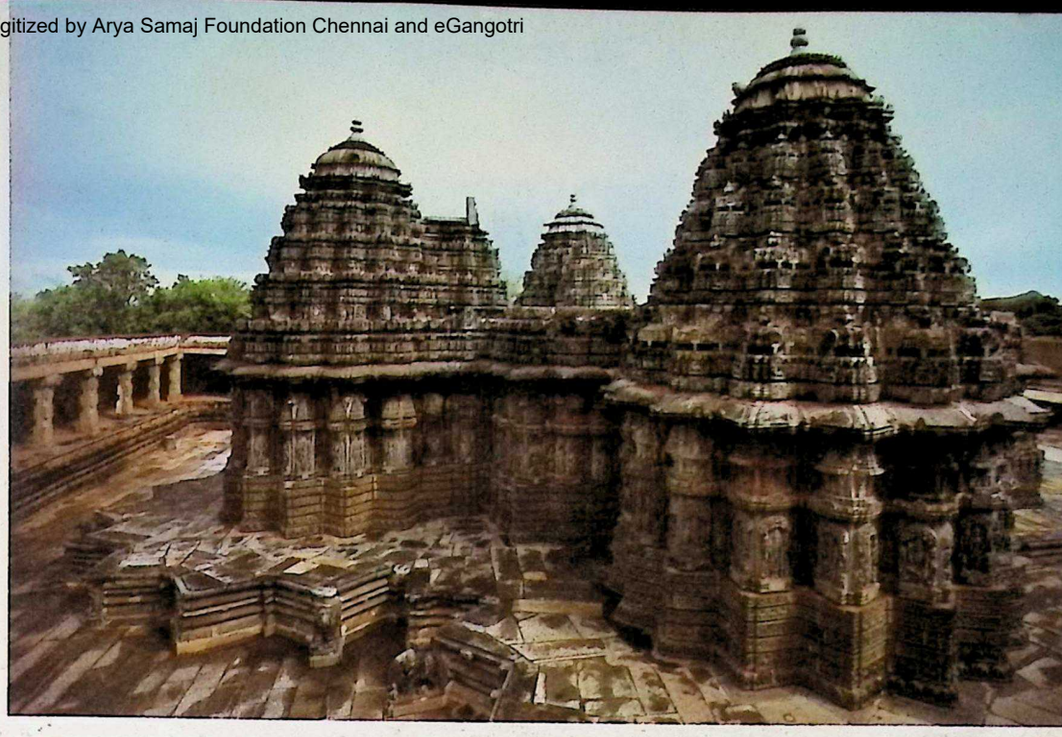
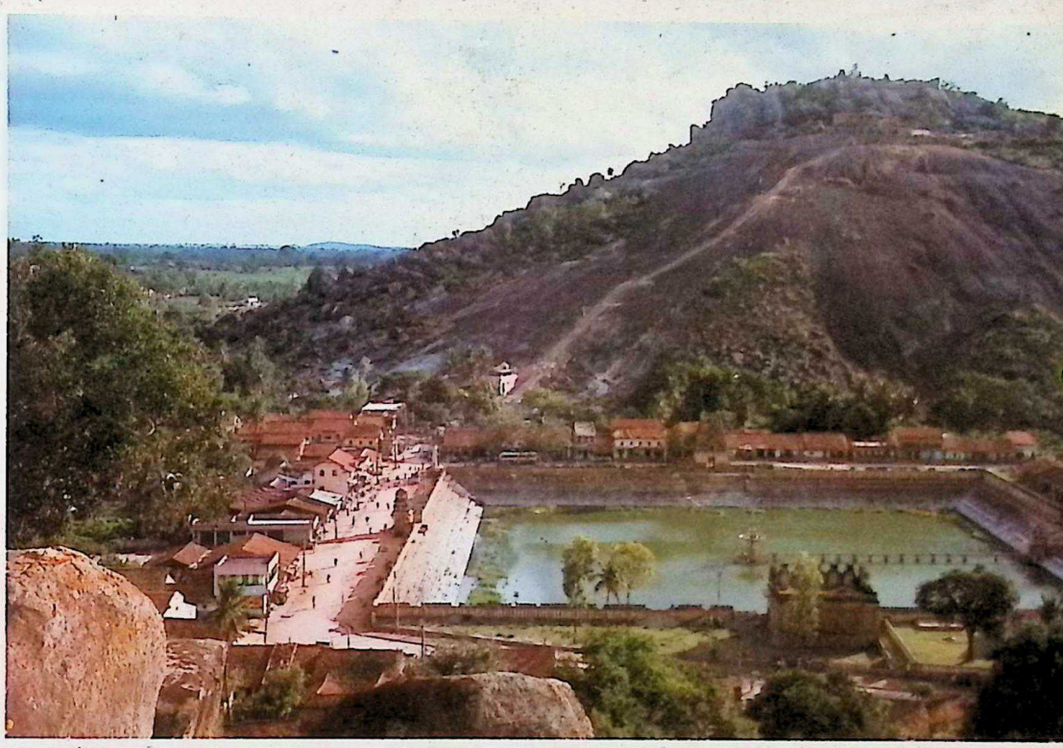


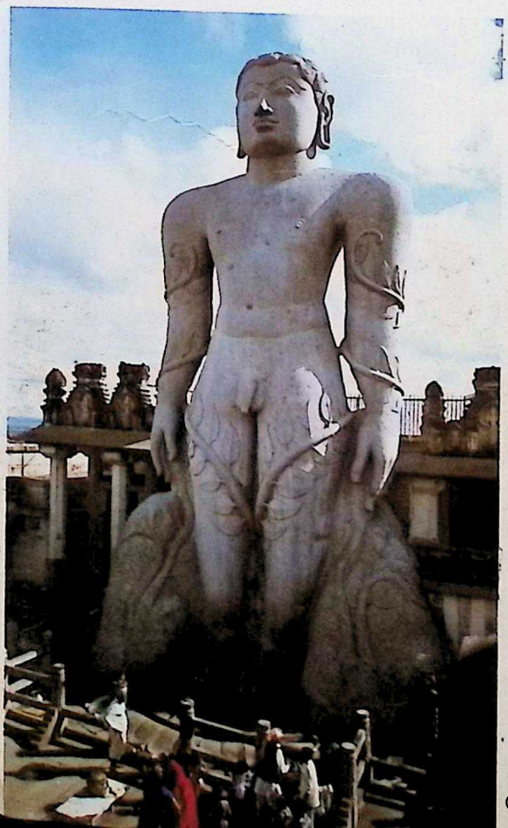




The celebrated 12th-century temple of Chenna Keshava above *stands at Belur and, like the magnificent star-shaped temple at Somnathpur* top right, *is a superb example of Hoysala art.*

Noted for its beautiful carvings, the Maharaja's Palace at Mysore left and bottom right, *was built in 1897 to replace an earlier one partly gutted by fire.*

On the hill of Indrabetta, seen from Chandragiri hill across Sravana Belagola centre right, *is the colossal Jain statue of Gomateswara* below.



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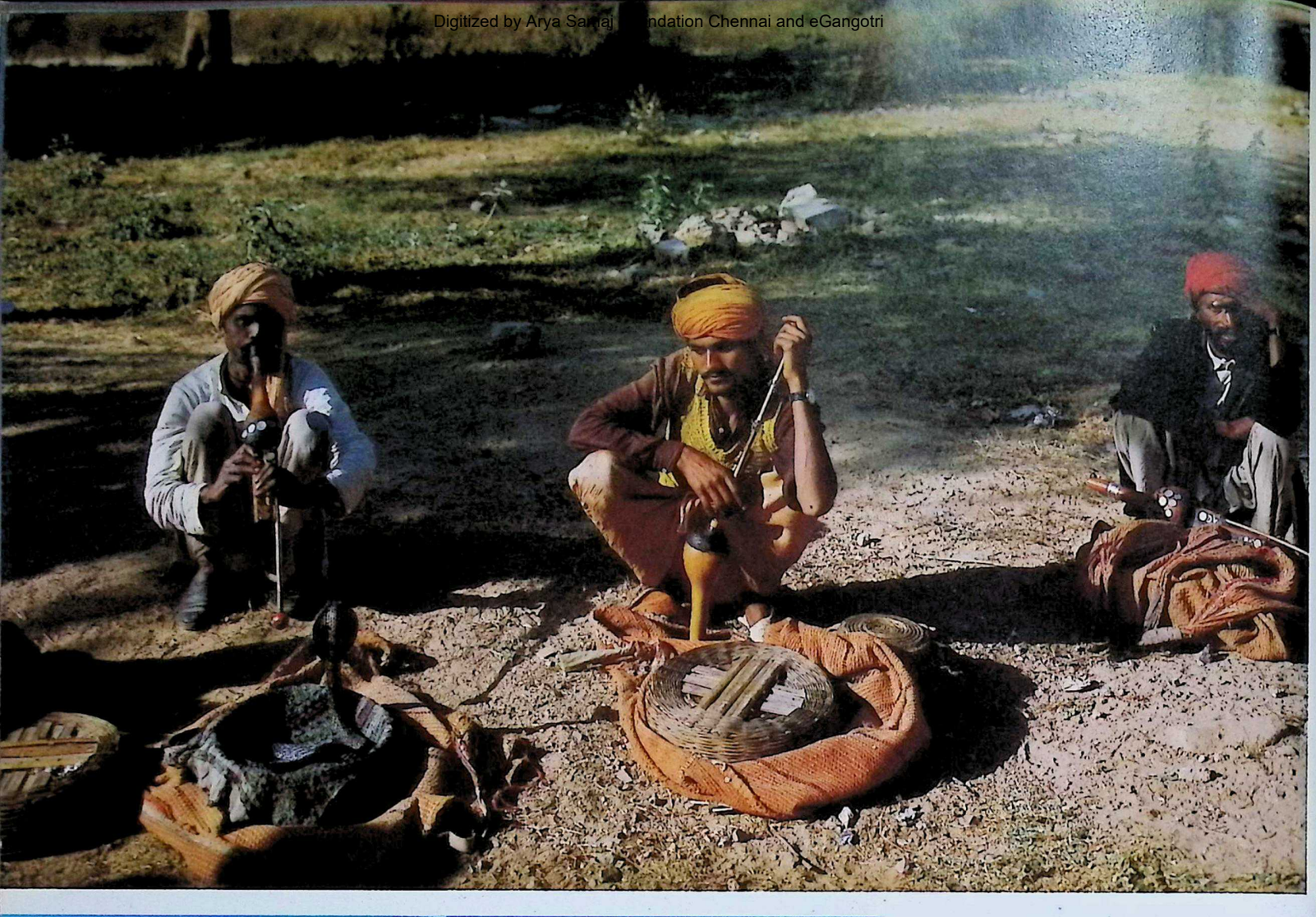

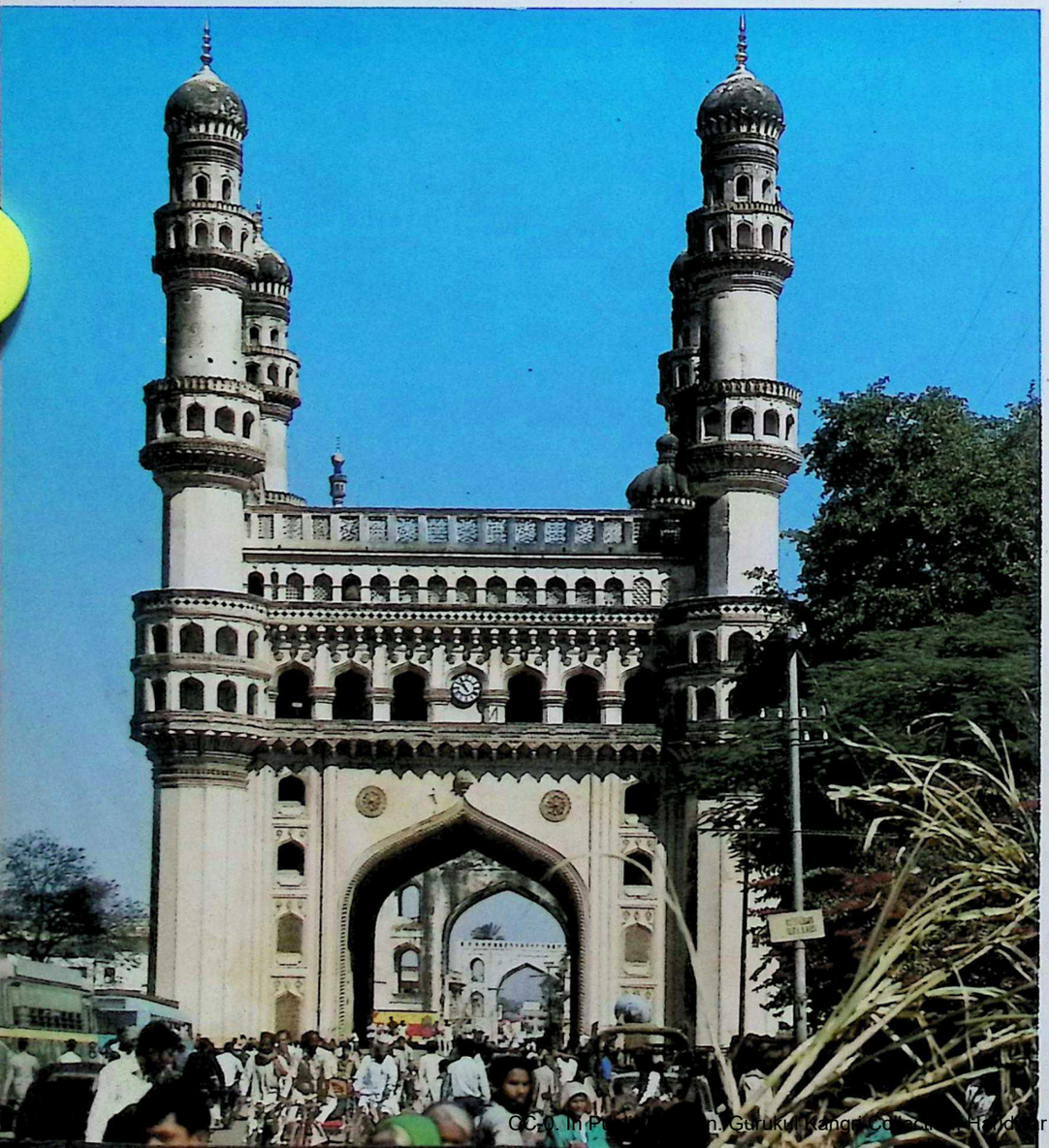

Considered a masterpiece of the Kutb Shahi period, the 16th-century Char Minar left *stands a short distance from Hyderabad's Afzalganj, whilst the 11th-century Brihadeeswara Temple at Tanjore* below *survives as the most magnificent monument of the Cholas. Known as the Hall of the Winds, the charming five storey Hawa Mahal* right *overlooks one of Jaipur's main streets, and the spectacular string of road lights on Marine Drive (Netaji Subash Road) in Bombay,* above right, *have earned it the nickname of the 'Queen's Necklace'.*

As fascinating as the country's ancient shrines are the snake charmers at Delhi above.

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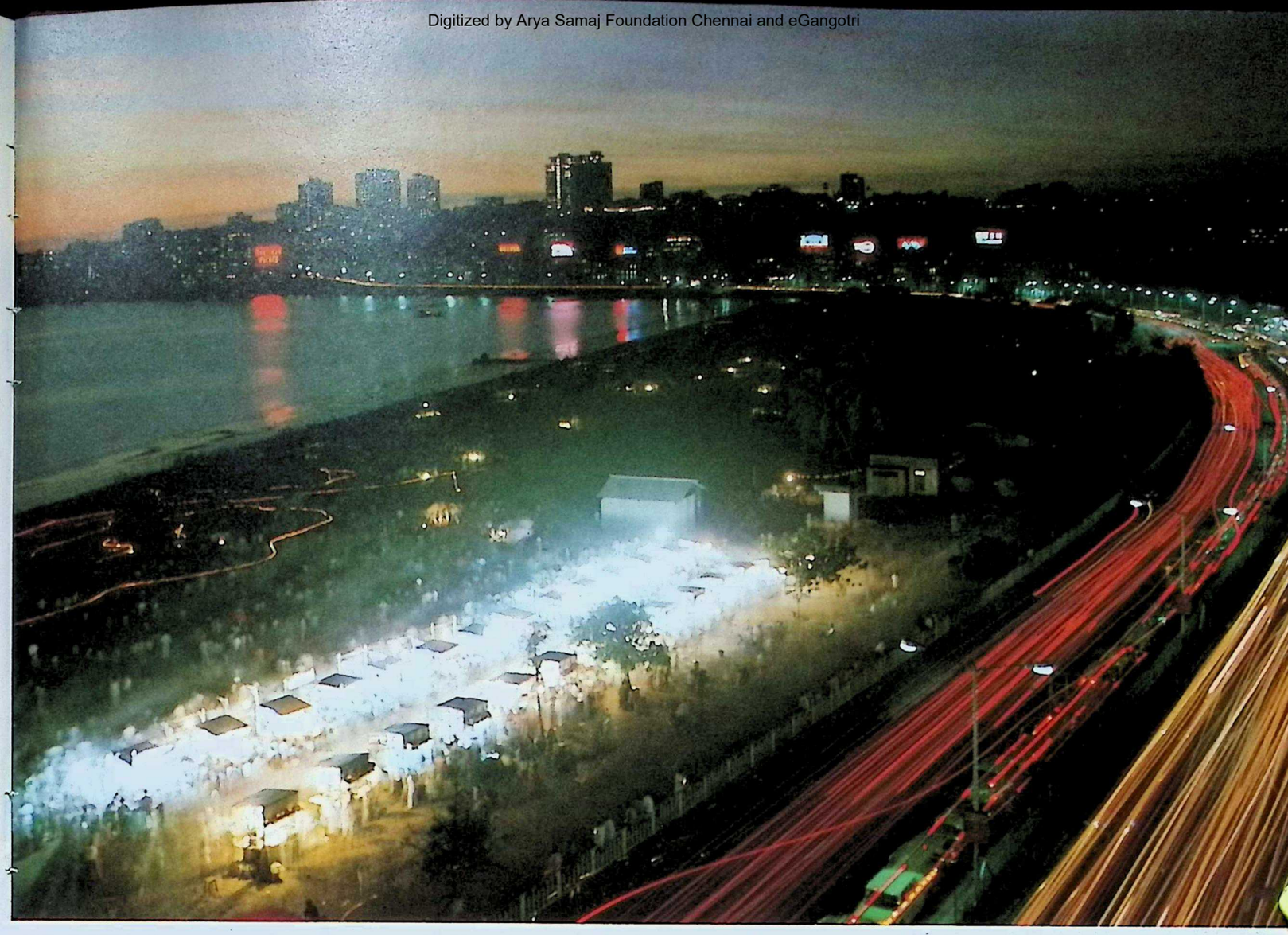

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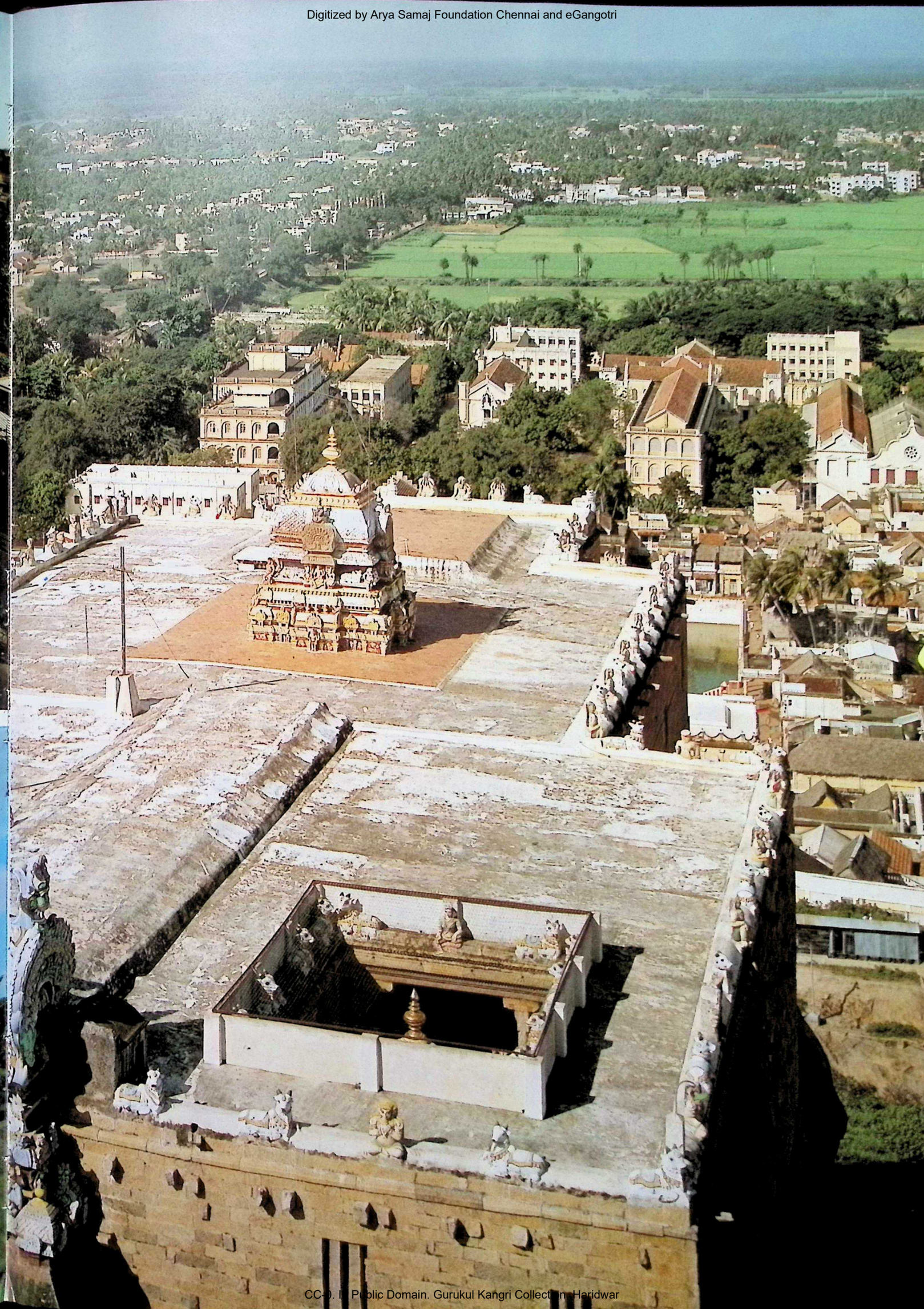

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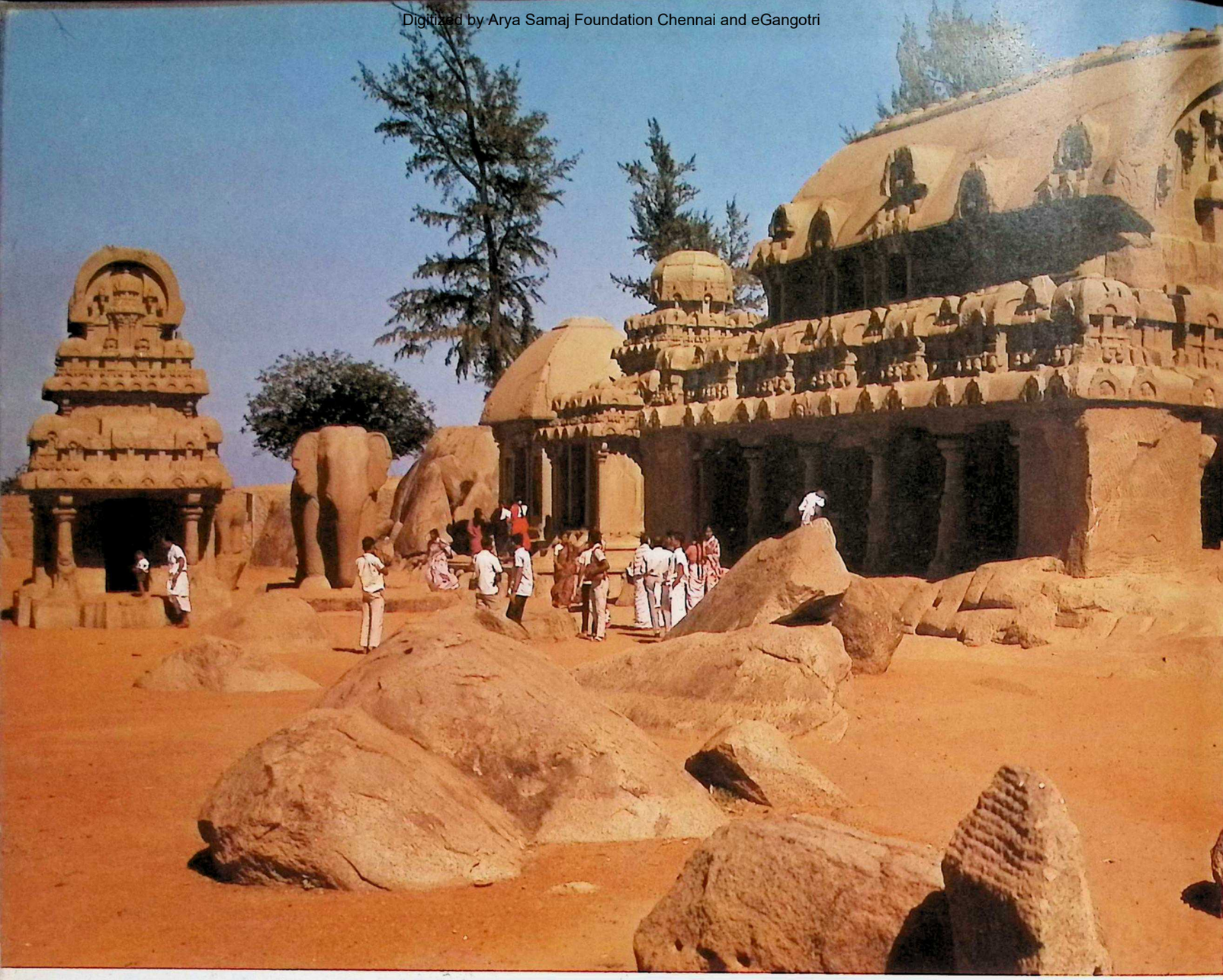

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पुस्तकालय
गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय

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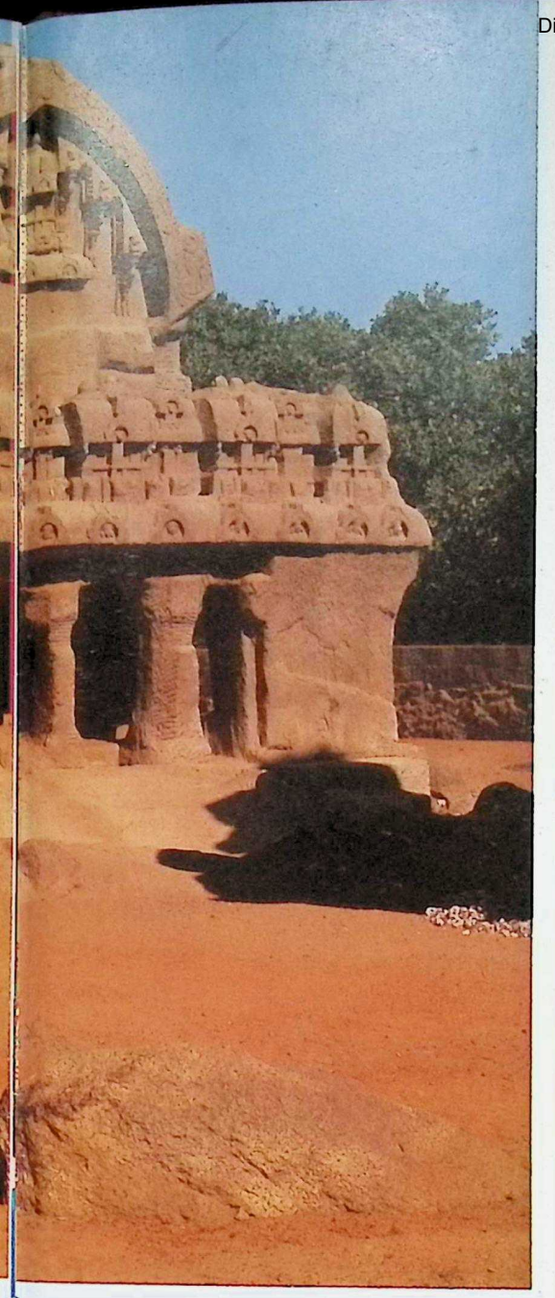
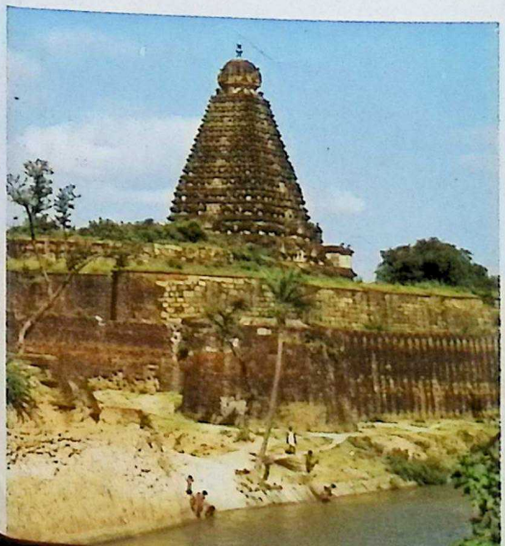


Picturesquely situated near the sea, the five monolithic Raths above *at Mahabalipuram, dating from the 7th century AD, owe their origin to the Pallava rulers of South India. Meenakshi, the great twin temple* left, centre right and bottom right, *is part of a vast complex of structures at Madurai, also famous for its colourful, annual car festival and procession.* Top right *can be seen the fascinating 'Village Gods' in Pondicherry, and* below *the Brihadiswara Temple, with its striking, 190ft sanctuary tower, at Tanjore.*



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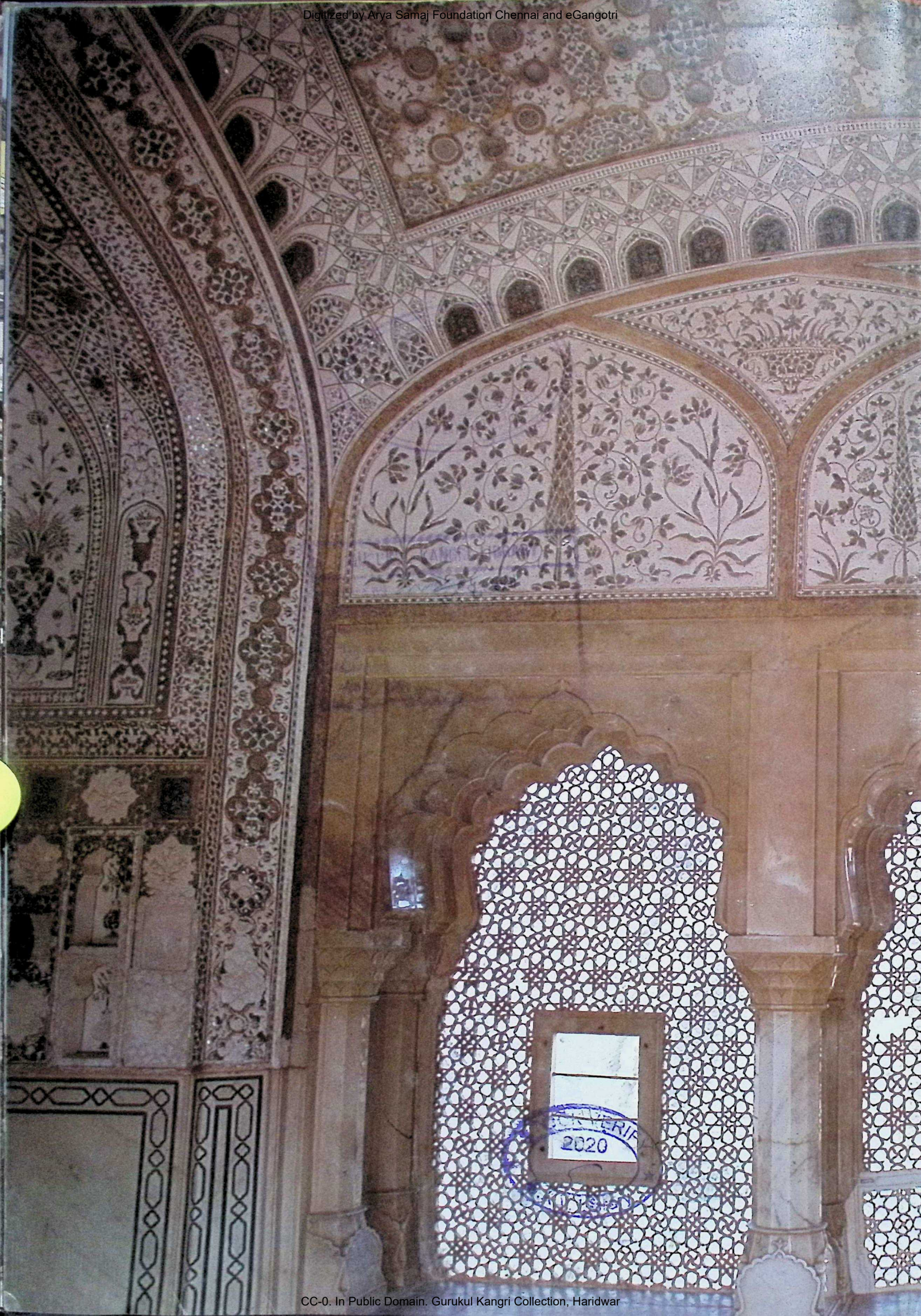

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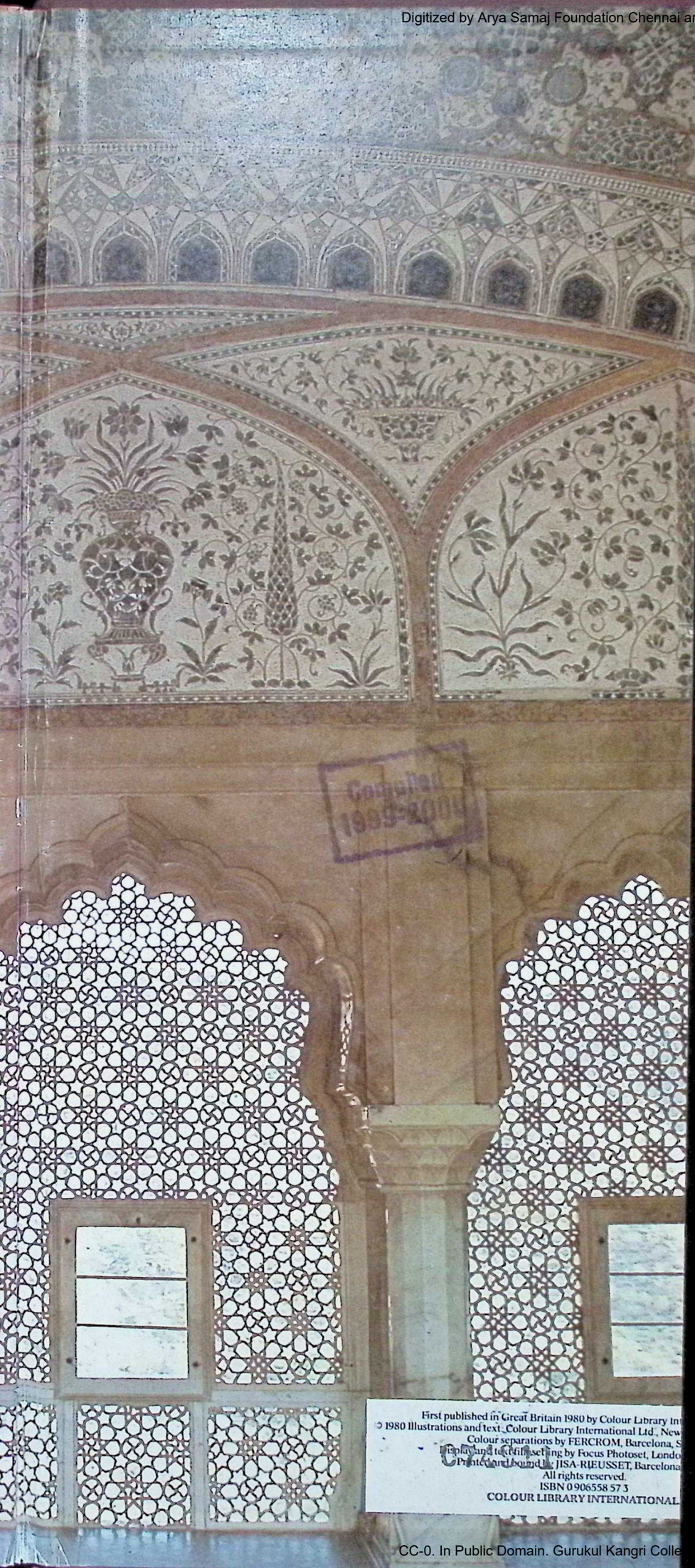

Compiled 1999-2000

First published in Great Britain 1980 by Colour Library In
© 1980 Illustrations and text Colour Library International Ltd., New
Colour separations by FERCROM, Barcelona, S
Display and text filmsetting by Focus Photoset, Londo
Printed and bound by JISA-RIEUSSET, Barcelona
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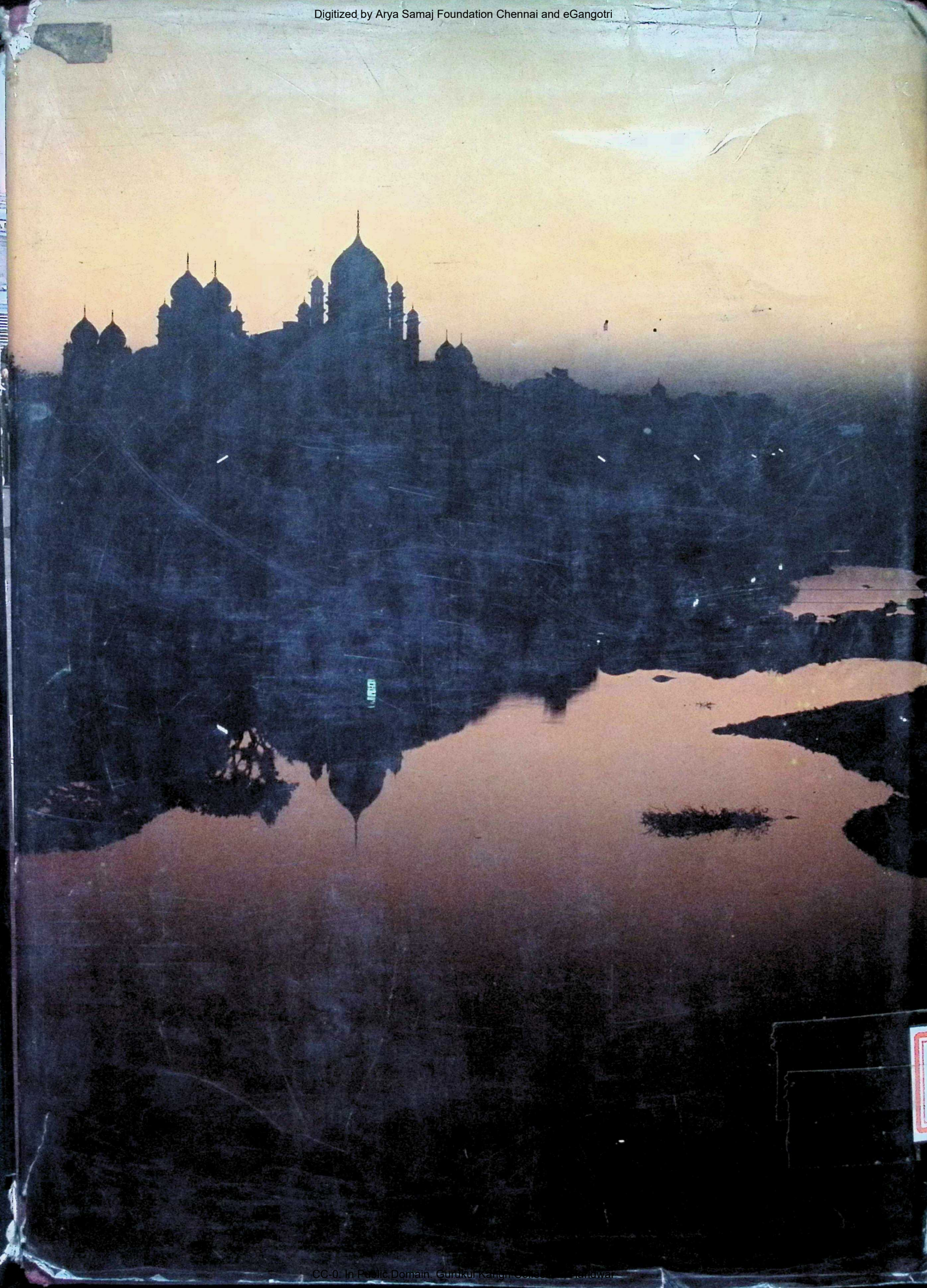

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